

INSIDE SOCCER

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ALSO IN THIS BUMPER ISSUE ...
BOOGIE KNIGHTS
AND
BERND STANGE



A NEW MARKETING ERA

By Aidan Ormond

Welcome to the new world of Australian Soccer. A world where marketing of clubs is now of paramount importance, where clubs are run on strict business lines, complete with media friendly names, gung-ho promoters and new and exciting kit designs.

Never has it been so clear that to survive, traditional NSL clubs are having to reinvent themselves, no doubt spurred on by the success of Spirit and Glory and Soccer Australia's NSL entry criteria for season 2000/2001.

It's a long way from Hellas, Croatia and Juventus!

This week we have seen Adelaide City's metamorphosis into Adelaide Force. As the club's Chief Executive Officer Ned Coten said, 'the image was designed to capitalize on the huge Australia-wide interest in soccer,' and for the Force to be 'accessible to all South Australians.'

Next week another club built out of the hard work of the migrant Italian community, Marconi, will reveal some pretty radical (so they say) changes to their image. Their first-rate facilities have not been matched by supporter numbers and media profile and so they too are moving with the times. West Sydney Stallions, Fairfield Stallions are just two possible name changes to this famous old club (see story next week).

Even Adelaide's Southern Stars (formerly West Adelaide/Adelaide Sharks)



have flagged their intentions in this regard, although there is some doubt over their ability to pull it off.

And this week Melbourne Knights, a club built out of the Croatian community's love of the World Game, has announced a new board hungry to 'bring back the passion' for soccer in Melbourne's west. (See story 'Boogie Knights' on page seven).

And with dwindling crowds and the AFL's corporate ethos eating away at their Melbourne heartland, now is the time for all Victorian NSL clubs to seek innovative ways to bring back the fans.

Of course nationally these changes will seem like paying lip-service to the idea of 'marketing' if the clubs do not have the will and chutzpah to follow through on their ideas.

It is a time for a new kind of diligence in order to prosper in the new millennium.

The momentum for change is now irreversible - those that don't or can't will be left behind. As Perth Glory's dynamic Chairman, Nick Tana, recently stated, "they all want to be like Glory, unfortunately not all can be like us."

CONTINUED PAGE TWO ...



PLUS: CARLTON'S 'BONDING' TOUR, TONY SEKULIC, 1974 SOCCEROO REUNION, FANZINES, AND ALL THE NEWS FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA AND THE UK PREMIER LEAGUE. EVERYTHING FOR THE AUSSIE SOCCER FAN EVERY TUESDAY

EDITORIAL

from page one... Clubs such as Brisbane Strikers and Sydney Olympic do not appear to be doing much in terms of marketing and that is a worry.

Of course being left behind does not necessarily mean the dreaded drop to state level football for the clubs unable to compete strongly at national level.

Soccer Australia Chairman Basil Scarsella has given a strong indication that the notion of a second division is not far off. He said yesterday that the criteria for entering the NSL in 2000/1 will be

finalized in the next four weeks or so, and for those clubs who cannot meet them, the idea of a second division will be "seriously looked at."

This scenario may see a Premier League (current Ericsson Cup) consisting of between 10-14 clubs, with a First Division of about 10-12 sides.

But back to marketing and the rights to market the NSL seem to be between two parties although reports that they have been won by Rivkin Entertainment appear speculative.

"It's not finalized yet, and we expect to make a decision soon. No, Rivkin has not officially got. It needs to be crystallized. There is more than one offer on the table. Similar to IMG's marketing deal with the national team, we are looking for something with the national league," said Scarsella.

He did not say who the second offer was but IMG is the likely bidder,

however Rivkin Entertainment appears to be clear favourite.

Rivkin Entertainment's Bertie Mariani declined to comment other than to say they have made a proposal to Soccer Australia and it's being looked at. The deal is believed to include office space for Soccer Australia from the Rivkin group and naming rights to the league (Ericsson's naming rights expires at the end of season 99/2000).

It seems 'Marketing' and 'Australian Soccer' are the buzzwords of the moment, but it won't mean a thing if there is not the will to push through these much needed reforms across the board.

We've had the Tax Summit and the Constitutional Convention, now we have the Socceroo Summit in London. Seriously though, this is a sound idea. Farina's intention from day one has been to improve communication between his star Euro-roos and the coaching staff.

If the issues and plans for the future can be thrashed out then there is no excuse for the future. And knowing Frank Farina and Graham Arnold (his assistant), the players will know exactly who is boss and what is required of them.

And finally, well-done to the Joeys for getting up over a



Sydney Olympic's new star signing, Chris Zos' Zoricich with a Brazilian admirer. Olympic's friendly against Adelaide Force is one page 11. Ronaldo for Olympic??



National coach Frank Farina at the '74 Socceroo Reunion last Tuesday night. With him is Manny Schaefer (ctr) and Adrian 'Noddy' Alston. A report on the night is on page nine.

tricky opponent on Friday night (our time) to qualify over Bahrain. The temperature was nearly 40 degrees when they played for the right to play in the U/17 World Cup. The Aussie-based Joeys arrived back, minus some kilos, on Sunday night. Next week we hope to catch up with one of our Joey stars in the lead-up to the U/17 World Cup in New Zealand. "Put simply, our extra week of conditioning put us right in this game and we seemed to cope with the conditions better than the locals," said coach Les Scheinflug later.

New Zealand, here we come.

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YEAR OF THE WOLF?

By Steven Webb

Wollongong Wolves are planning to learn from their poor performance last season and make 1999-2000 even better than their successful 1997-1998 campaign.

Still looking for a striker, welcoming back Neil Harlock (from New Zealand) and Alvin Ceccoli (from Greece) and adding newcomers David Cervinski and Peter Lahanas, Wolves are much the same unit as in recent seasons - though hoping to dazzle in a new "Manchester United" strip.

Captain Matt Horsley said last night that senior players were disappointed with last season and were primed for a better performance this year, and facing South Melbourne first up at home would be a "good test".

Horsley felt Wolves started last season badly and he was hoping for a psychological advantage coming out of last Sunday's game against Sydney United. "Winning the pre-season Waratah Cup two years ago set us up well for the rest of the season."

"This year," he said, Wolves will be concentrating on defence. "We have proven we can score goals, but we need to tighten up at the back."

The team was still finding its feet, however, as seen in the 0-0 result against local State League side Illawarra Lions midweek, yet Horsley remains positive: "We didn't concede any goals and created several good chances."

Wolves haven't yet run with a full-strength squad. Lahanas has been trialing on the right wing but David Cervinski hasn't returned from Malaysia and Alvin Ceccoli is recovering from an arthroscopy.

Three youth team members from last season - Chad Bishop, youth player of the year Paul Dimech and Christian Zelvis - have been earmarked to make first team appearances in 1999 and are keen to put some pressure on the senior players.

And there will be no moving of grounds; Wolves will be playing at Brandon



Park again this year. WIN Stadium is not yet suitable for top level soccer matches.

The club is also cranking up its promotional and marketing opportunities, focussing on children and families.

Seven thousand passes have been distributed to Illawarra juniors, there will be a family day at Brandon Park on September 18, and preparations are being made for the popular Rooball competition at half time during Ericsson Cup matches.

And IS hopes to see a return of the Wolfchase, always good halftime fun down at Wollongong.

*Wollongong Wolves and Sydney United match report on page 11.

In international news and after more than a year Joe Simunic came on as a sub in the 71st minute in the 3-1 win by Hamburg over Schalke 04. Sadly for Joe, and Australian Soccer, it looks like Olyroo coach has given up on him as a candidate for the Olympics, due to his lack of commitment to our national teams. Pity.

Speaking of Soccerroos, Harry Kewell is doing the ads for the Socceroo v Brazil tour. Does this mean he is definitely coming? Well it is an IMG event so Kewell and stablemate Viduka should be playing. If it was another Rivkin event?... Adn the ad only mentions the Sydney game. Has the MCG been booked?

IN THIS WEEK'S Inside Soccer

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SO WHAT'S ALL THE FORCE ABOUT?

By Aidan Ormond

This has been quite a week for one of the founding clubs of the NSL. Adelaide City Zebras, a club built on the traditions and sweat of the migrant Italian community, has decided to pursue their long-term ambitions of once again becoming one of the league's powerhouses by changing their name, logo, kit and, in many ways, the way they think of themselves as a club.

The club has metamorphosed into Adelaide Force. They are now making a concerted effort to bring in new fans to Adelaide's refurbished Hindmarsh stadium (there has been an alarming drop over the last few years) and to strengthen its corporate sponsorships, memberships and media profile.

In other words, it is running this thing

called a national soccer league organization like a business, as opposed to a social club.

And therein lies the fundamental seachange that the club is now seeking to address.



As the club explains on its new website, the name 'Force' was chosen 'to reflect the strong presence of the defence industry in South Australia, while also pro-

jecting an image of a strong club willing to move forward through well directed planning, hard work and determination. The name 'Force' has many positive connotations and can be used in a number of innovative ways that embrace the feeling of excitement and potential.'

Their website (www.adelaide-force.com.au) presently reads more like a prospectus than a typical club site, which in itself typifies the new business ethic of the club.

Adelaide Force now operates under the direction of Chief Executive Ned Coten, a sports management and marketing professional who has been part of the successful Perth Wildcats and Hopman Cup tennis organizations.

"There is still a lot of hard yakka to go but we have had 10-12 genuine inquiries regarding sponsorship," said Coten.

And, as the players and Coten have been saying, "if we don't change we won't have a club."

However Force is not completely disregarding the past. In a savvy piece of marketing, it is establishing special presentations to the surviving members of the very first team, the Savoys, who were the forerunner to Adelaide Juventus and later Adelaide City.

But Coten added that there are about 100,000 'hard-core' soccer supporters in South Australia and 'we want them on the Force.'

Speaking after Sunday night's club AGM, Coten said that the meeting was very positive with the board and Coten outlining their reports to the members. "Generally they (the members) are quite happy. Of course not everyone is agreeable but that's to be expected. It's not difficult to institute change when the option is not to have a club for the future."

The AGM did not have any voting on these new changes although the members would have a say in the new strip (Force will also run a public competition to find the best kit design).



Damian Mori ... on Saturday night at Marconi he scored the first official goal for Adelaide Force. For Force's weekend Sydney, turn to page 11.

AURELIO FEELS THE FORCE



Soccer star Aurelio Vidmar is loving his return to Adelaide Football. And being 'on the Force' is something he is fully behind.

"I think in the past some fans may have felt a little intimidated coming to see us play. We want to broaden our support base and I think this is a positive step in that direction," he said while in Sydney on the weekend.

"I think the marketing people have done a great job.

"Some may not be happy with the change but we have to move forward and think of the future.

"In the past we have stagnated while clubs like Spirit and Glory have powered on, so that is why the club is now looking to the future with this name change.

"The name is strong and hopefully we can be a force to be reckoned with!" (One media pass coming right up Aurelio!).

The pre-season has been a busy one for the newly-married 32-year-old. "It's been a very hard pre-season, very physical, now we need to sharpen up with some games.

"With the marketing of the Force and training I've been kept very busy."

On the national front and the former Euro-based striker is excited at the choice of coach. "He has the right credentials and it's a great choice.

"I haven't retired, I was just waiting for the new coach to be appointed. I am sure in the next couple of months

"I am sure I will be talking with Frankie about things in general in the not too distant future."

Aurelio, may the Force be with you.

CARLTON'S CHINESE 'BONDING' TOUR

We've heard plenty about bonding trips for football sides (falling off horses, fighting in nightclubs etc.) but Carlton's Sean Douglas believes their three game China tour just completed was a bonding trip of the right kind.

The first tour game was played during a wild hailstorm that should have seen the game abandoned (the video screen blew up), but it went ahead, and three players were sent-off in the second game against Sichuan Quanxing. The Blues won their final tour game 3-1.

"Yes, it was useful from a game point of view, but also the guys bonded well. Living together for two weeks you get to know each other, particularly with so many new players," said the elegant Kiwi defender.

However Douglas (right) was less than complimentary about the standard of the Chinese teams. "I thought they would be better. We played the side third-placed in their main league and really, if we played them on a decent pitch we would have killed them."

New striker Mike Conroy was hacked in game two, sparking wild scenes. "Mark

Atkinson is 29 and that was his first send-off, and all he really did was push someone. He got some ribbing about that.

"Those were my first games with the team (he has been away on national team duty with New Zealand in the Confederations Cup), the good thing is that we are looking like we will have some depth."

So after the highs of the Confederations Cup campaign, playing against Brazil and Germany in huge stadia, plus the incident-packed China tour, Douglas has finally returned to earth, glad he does not have to board a plane or coach.

And on Saturday morning he was training in the rain with his Carlton teammates in suburban Doncaster. Welcome back to reality Sean!



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COSMOS FANS ROCK!

Remember the 1978 recording 'We'll Be With You!' from Canberra (via Stokel) City or Newcastle KB Utd's effort around the same time?

It is rare that original tunes and lyrics emerge, but they are just about to, in Canberra!

The much-anticipated 'Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem & Chants' CD will be released this week.

Costing just \$9.95, the CD by top Canberra band Ice Cream Headache (ICH) features the following three tracks and their lyrics in an attractively designed package.

Ice Cream Headache and Cosmos players will be at the **Music Shop in Belconnen Mall** at 7.30

pm this Friday (Sept 3) to sign the CD and its cover.

They will also sign CDs on the following two Fridays at 7.30 pm: on Sept 10 near the stage or at



Canberra's Soccer mad band Ice Cream Headache. See them and the Cosmos players at live appearances around Canberra.

Songland, Tuggeranong Hyperdome (after ICH perform live on stage from 6.45 - 7.15 pm); and also at the **Music Shop at Woden Plaza** on Sept 17.

ACT Chief Minister Kate Carnell will officially launch the CD at 1.30 pm on Tuesday Sept 7 at the Gypsy Bar in Civic.

- *Canberra Cosmos Supporters' Anthem
- * Anthem (Dance Version)
- * The Chants

*Read next week's Inside Soccer for more details on a Cosmos/Ice Cream Headache/Inside Soccer promotion.

OLYROOS IN THE OLD DART

Olyroo Coach Raul Blanco has named a strong 20-man squad to assemble in England for a training camp. The camp, which began yesterday, will see the squad play two matches; the first against Southampton this Thursday and the second against the Kuwait Under-23s on 7 September. At this point we believe Harry Kewell has made his way to this camp.

The 20-man squad is:

ALLSOP Daniel Manchester City **BASER** Tansel Trabzonspor **BLATIS** Con South Melbourne **BOVE** Raphael Heerenveen, **BRESCIANO** Marco Empoli, **BURNS** Jacob Parramatta Power **CULINA** Jason Ajax **DAMIANOS** Bill Skoda Xanthi **EMERTON** Brett (above playing against Man Utd) UTS Sydney Olympic **FOX** Hayden Sanfrece Hiroshima **KEWELL** (right) Harry Leeds United **LAYBUTT** Stephen Shonan Bellmare Hiratsuka **MILOSEVIC** Danny Perth Glory **NASTEVSKI** Dragi Melbourne



Knight NEILL Lucas Millwall **RIZZO** Nick Crystal Palace **ROBERTSON** Mark Burnley **SALAPASIDIS** Kosta SD Compostela **ZANE** Clayton Northern Spirit **ZOIS** Peter NAC Breda



CHINESE TOUR ENDS ON A HIGH FOR BLUES

Carlton defeated Henang Rancheng 3-1 in Zhengzhou in their final tour game. Carlton were one goal down after 31 minutes, but a goal from Markovski had scores equal by half time. Carlton dominated the second half with Moreira scoring (60) and Markovski scoring again (80). Captain Andrew Marth was sent off.

Coach Stuart Munro was delighted with the team's performance. "This tour has been terrific for the lads. The spirit amongst the group is great, and in particular the younger players (Terminello, Packer, Martin, Grbac, Erdogan). We're now looking forward to the Blue Ribbon Cup, and the start of the Ericsson Cup Season."

And in South Australia, Coast FM soccer on Sunday morning has now been extended. The show was originally 30 mins, now it runs 9am-11.30am on 88.5 FM. More on this top soccer show in the coming weeks, in the meantime, tune in!

For all you potential Power fans here is the lowdown on the ticket pricing for season tickets. Grandstand season tickets are now only \$250 with the concession price being just \$200.

What this gets you is your choice of two grandstands at all 16 home games, plus a free Power cap and shirt valued at \$50, free Power membership, with a total value to the package of \$368.

Match day prices are as follows: Grandstand: Adult \$18 Concession \$14. Terrace/Hill (unreserved) Adults \$12 Concession \$8.

The club's media launch is tomorrow night at Parramatta Stadium. Their first game will be at home against Marconi.

Speaking of fans, all but four corporate boxes have been sold at the Breakers Stadium at Newcastle (90% over the same time last season). The



Davie McPherson: back with Carlton after a brief overseas trip.

club has also signed Sydney United's 19-year-old Robbie Angievski, a former NSW IS graduate. Other news out of the go-ahead club is that David Lowe is now assistant senior coach, with Lowey's assistant at Youth level, Bobby Naumov, taking over as number one with their successful youth side. The club now has a Colts team which will be coached by Alex Tagaroulis, formerly the coach of their U/15 Super Youth League team.

Strong rumour coming out of Adelaide is that some of the backers of the Southern Stars (formerly Adelaide Sharks/West Adelaide Hellas), are not happy and could be taking their money elsewhere. We can't get anything concrete on this but obviously if this is true their future surely is grim

New Carlton recruit Stuart Slater arrived in Melbourne yesterday and will immediately join the squad in training. Rehabilitation for Simon Colosimo is going very well, and he expects to begin training in 2-3 months. Dave McPherson has returned to Melbourne. Craig Deans was unable to play in China, however has participated fully in all training sessions, and is working hard on strengthening his shoulder after the pre-season reconstruction.



Inside **SOCCER** SUBSCRIPTIONS

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SPIRIT SHIRT FETCHES \$800

Further proof that Northern Spirit Football Club is taking hold in the North Shore of Sydney. In the Sydney Morning Herald's Column 8 (page one), the snippet read that Allambie Heights Public School's trivia and auction night was held recently.

An autographed Manly Warringah rugby jersey was sold after bidding for \$212; the NSW State of Origin jersey fared only slightly better,

fetching \$345. After 'spirited' (their pun!) bidding the Northern Spirit autographed shirt topped them both, going for \$800.

This comes on the back of Mark Bosnich's jersey raising more money for charity than Plugger Lockett's AFL shirt at another auction recently.

World Game 2
The Rest 0.

SMITHIES SHOWS SPIRIT!

WAKEHURST 1
NORTHERN SPIRIT 7
(Lionel Watts Oval, Belrose)

By Paul Goodwin

In the latest of their busy schedule of trial games Northern Spirit travelled midweek to the northern beaches peninsula to play Manly-Warringah District side Wakehurst, a very strong member club of that local association whom Spirit had beaten back in May in a goodwill exercise.

Last time Spirit won 10-0, but Wakehurst were wise and brought in a few 'guest players' this time!

Ace striker Rob Smithies showed the kind of form that has brought superlatives from an adoring Sydney University public

for several seasons when he opened the scoring as a guest player for Wakehurst in the match last Tuesday night.

According to Spirit's man on the spot, Micky Brock, the NSW Second Division star left Paul Henderson, in the Spirit goal, grasping at thin air when delivering a sucker punch in the 3rd minute.

It was little more than a workout for Smithies who went around again on Saturday for his University team when they met Fraser Park in a tussle for a Grand Final spot next weekend.

Maybe Smithies would like a Spirit trial too?!

It took until the 17th minute for Matt Langdon to equalise, but Spirit were held to 1-1 at half time.

Second half goals from

Simon Catanzaro, who scored one of his two goals from the penalty spot, two more from Langdon and others from Tony Perinich and Michael Cunico allowed Spirit to record a respectable 7-1 win.

A crowd of around 700 had seen a mostly youthful Spirit enjoy another good trial ahead.

Spirit's first half passing was woeful and Wakehurst were well in the game, but after the break it was a much more business-like Spirit that emerged from the sheds and they went on to post a respectable 7-1 win this time.

SPIRIT: Henderson, Culina, Olic, Wearne (Cunico 27), Langdon, Crook, A. Griffiths, Moss, Catanzaro, Zane, Perinich



Mark Rudan ... hat-trick hero!

Spirit's young keeper napping when he found himself alone out wide on the left and sent a diagonal shot into the bottom right corner of the net in the 42nd.

Right from the restart Michael Cunico headed in another Langdon cross and Luke Casserly then put away a penalty in the 68th, after Langdon had been brought down, to make things much more respectable for Spirit.

Rudan later also managed to head in Langdon's left flank corner in the 80th and claimed his hat trick with another header from a cross six minutes further in.

Young prospect Adam Snyder impressed out wide on the right, throughout the game, and Langdon was also at his best, but there was not a lot else to come out of the game, which was really only played at half pace.

The real winners were Ku-ring-gai who have been deprived of seeing a team playing in the familiar green and white at senior level since the demise of their State League club in the last decade.

For a side representing the clubs themselves, it had been an even longer wait than that. While this was strictly an amateur eleven, formed just for the one game, the large numbers who attended suggests that there is an interest in

having a club in the area at State level and if a suitable ground could be secured then a team may well be entered again in NSW Federation football.

Many former Ku-ring-gai players from the past were there, as well as old committee members and most Ku-ring-gai District clubs were represented as well.

As for Spirit, they will be getting ready for their next challenge, the Carty and Forsyth Cup this weekend.

A Spirit side was also due to play a Manly-Warringah representative side at Cromer Park this Friday night.

SPIRIT: Perosh, Casserly, Rudan, Bingley, Bilokapic (Adam Griffiths 46), Lyons, Cunico, Catanzaro, Perinich (Culina 46), Snyder, Langdon

KU-RING-GAI: C. Burgman, S. Maple, J. Tobias, M. Julliard, M. Davies, E. Calvert, D. Patten, L. Williams, B. Bosworth, D. Evans, B. Robinson, G. Wilson, N. Cahill, M. Rinaldi, M. Smiths, R. Smithies

RUDAN'S TRIPLE TREAT

NORTHERN SPIRIT 5
KU-RING-GAI ALL-STARS 1
(North Sydney Oval)

By Paul Goodwin

Headed hat trick from Armstrongman defender Mark Rudan was the feature of Northern Spirit's rather laboured 5-1 win over a Ku-ring-gai District All Stars representative side at North Sydney Oval on Thursday night.

In their first outing as a purely District team in over three decades, a combined side from premier league clubs including Northbridge, Lane Cove, Chatswood Rangers, Kissing Point, West Pymble, Berowra, Mount Colah, North Sydney Bears and the University of Technology were given a very warm welcome by a fiercely partisan crowd who clearly outnumbered the usually noisy Spirit Point faction.

There were around 1,500 in attendance for what was essentially a training match, but the exercise was worthwhile as it brought together many football folk who had not met on common ground in a very long while.

Spirit took the lead with a Rudan header in the 27th minute, after Matt Langdon had crossed from a free kick awarded out on the left by-line. Chatswood's Evan Calvert caught the

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No 37, September 1999

A night out in Mexico with Michael Utting



This week we go international in our search for the fans behind the fanzines. New Zealand's *Sitter!* has received rave reviews from many Australian fanzine readers. This despite, in their words, being in a country with a 'dire' league and a media with a 'pathological' dislike of soccer. Bruce Holloway runs *Sitter!* and Aidan Ormond asked the questions ...

The history of *Sitter!* (how long it's been going, why was it started, how many issues, how is it distributed?)

Derek Walker started *Sitter!* in May 1995, frustrated at the lack of a soccer publication in New Zealand. His enthusiasm dried up in January 1997, and I revived it four months later. We're working on our 37th issue. Our circulation varies between 300-500, depending on what's happening and whether anybody can be stuffed hawking them around the grounds. We have eight retail outlets, though the bulk of readers are subscribers.

What is the workload like getting an issue out? What is your advice to other budding fanzine producers in NZ?

Because it is done on a hobby basis - we are non-profit and have pumped over \$2000 back into the game in the last 18 months - the workload can be huge after working all week. It's a home desktop

operation (44 pages, A5) and takes at least 40 hours a month. My advice to other fanzine publishers is to remember the content (what you have to say) is more important than how professional it looks. If you've got something intelligent, witty or passionate to say people won't mind if it's a crappy photocopy job.

Describe the domestic league scene over there. What is the level of

Our best hope is that the players turn out to be so good, we could afford to put Homer Simpson in charge of them!

Sitter!

support like for those leagues?

Domestic soccer is dire, and only a shadow of what it was seven or eight years ago. There are some very good players, but they are spread thinly between a South Island league and a North Island League. Moves are afoot to revive the national league next winter. The Kingz have arrived, but they represent a shiny new peak built on a crumbling old

base. The remarkable thing is we still produce some handy players in spite of our structures, rather than because of it. North Island league winners Central United have been pulling crowds of about 800. My club, Melville United, had about 70 paying spectators at its last home game. That's not enough for a club which had to pay a \$30,000 entry fee.

This is a big year for NZ; Confederation Cup, Auckland Kings, U/17 World Cup. Can the game really take off over there?

The Confederations Cup was a brilliant experience for all concerned. The All Whites were astutely managed, and gave it everything they could. The big thing was our national team was live on public television for the first time in almost a decade. When that happens there is always a chance of getting money back into the game. The U17 Cup is being priced cheap enough for fans - \$NZ40 for a "season pass" to group matches - but it remains to be seen if the public will attend in big enough numbers. We struggle to make All Whites home internationals break even, so it could be tough getting punters to watch teenagers from countries they couldn't find on a map play each other.

When NZ was awarded the Cup I thought it was a disaster waiting to happen - we couldn't even run a national league and here were given a world championship - but in the wake of resuscitated public interest post Confederation Cup, and lots of FIFA help, we might just pull it off without making a laughing stock of ourselves.

And how successful can the Kings be?

Er, that should be the Kingz (they've changed their name without telling anyone). While other clubs have their infrastructure well settled and have been on pre-season tours for weeks, the Kingz only played their first game last week, and have only announced 12 contracted players at the time of writing. It's bound to be a nervous start for our first professional team. I find Wynton Rufer an unproven coach, and his assistant, brother Shane Rufer, (who took

North Shore to their lowest standing in domestic football in living memory this year) less than inspirational. Our best hope is that the players turn out to be so good, we could afford to put Homer Simpson in charge of them.

Describe the NZ sports media. Are they coming around to soccer? How has the wider media reacted to the Kings, or sorry, the Kingz?

Rugby, cricket, netball and league are the big four sports in New Zealand - basically anything which has wide appeal on a world scale. Television has had a pathological dislike of soccer up until the Confederation Cup. Coverage is haphazard in the press - bad in Auckland but far better than what it deserves in Wellington, and admirable in Christchurch. Andrew Dewhurst does a good job on Radio Sport, but his workmate Martin Devlin has set the game back with his Sky Television programme "House of Football" which basically ignores the New Zealand game and reports on Arsenal and the like. It's our version of Dumb and Dumber, perpetuating the myth the game is for noisy Poms.

I think the media have been too accepting, and not critical enough, in their treatment of the Kingz. It was

bad enough listening to everybody incorrectly parrot that they are the first team in the world to play in another country's competition (we can think of at least 12 others) but they're not being called to account for much at all.

They've been promising to name a sponsor for just on 16 months now without yet doing so. They've changed their name without a word of explanation, named a coach with no track record, etc.

Are there other NZ soccer fanzines? What are your favourite fanzines worldwide, and what is your opinion of the Australian fanzines you've seen?

Before reviving *Sitter!* I used to publish an occasional Waikato United fanzine called *Bull-Sheet* (Bulls was Waikato nickname). Rab Smith runs an occasionally very funny publication in Dunedin which he calls a fanzine, though it is more a general purpose match programme for all games in the city. Otherwise there is not much happening here 'zine-wise.

My favourite fanzine is Manchester United's *Red Issue*. It is biting funny, to the point of being cruel, yet carries extremely perceptive editorial as well. I consider it a world leader. I love reading the *That's The Story So Far* every quarter from Liverpool's *Through the Wind and Rain*, and admire what Dave Thomas does with *A Kick Up The R's* (QPR).

Studs Up is an Australian soccer legend. It's not as slick as it could be presentation-wise, but I like the 'feel' of SU. It's been a true pioneer, and it generates many ideas for us at *Sitter!* I'm tempted to nick a few of their regular features.

My Blue Heaven reminded me very much of what I used to do with *Bull-Sheet*. It looks promising. I've only seen one copy of *Three Points and a Hangover*, but it deserves an award for the title alone. I hope both continue to prosper. I was sad to hear of the demise of Queensland's *The Farr Post*.

Continued on page 13 ...

BOOGIE KNIGHTS!

By Aidan Ormond

If their funky and bold new board have their way, the days of being the NSL's joke are over for Melbourne Knights. Tony Karlusic, the new President of Melbourne Knights says it's time to bring back the passion, and fans, to the struggling club. A director of Midas Electrics and a former club vice-president, Karlusic is keen to emphasize the fact that the new board is Australian born and considerably younger than most yet still imbued with a strong business background.

"It's an Australian board and that's important. It shouldn't matter about surnames. There is a wide variety of business and media backgrounds on the board. We're a western suburbs club and we want all the fans in that area (estimated at about 1.5 million) to be coming down. We are going to triple what the average attendance was last year. I predict we will get around 8-9,000 average."

"There will be advertising and marketing and we will be doing everything we can possibly do. We will be putting on a show for pre-match and we want the fans to feel comfortable, so we will be upgrading the corporate boxes, social rooms and all that."

Knight's Somers Street ground was once described as a 'goat paddock' and has been called the most soulless ground in the league.

So what has the club been doing wrong in the past? "That's a hard question," said Karlusic tactfully. "There was no promoting of the club in a professional

manner for one. Call me in a month's time and you will be telling me how great it is. We want to head soccer in Australia. We will get those burns on seats ... one word is passion and that is what we are bringing back."

Knight's director Alan Rados is equally confident about the future and is not afraid to talk it up. "The new Knights for the new millennium," is his take on the future direction of the club. "The new board promises it will do everything in its power to bring the stadium and playing

keting manager said the vision of the new and younger board is to "move away from the perception that the club is solely for the Croatian community", without taking away that backbone of the club. To move this club into the new millennium however there has to be a "perception change," added Englishman Horsfall.

The club is working fast, with a 100 day business plan. Horsfall's first task is to find a major sponsor, but, as he says with just a hint of realism "you don't get a major sponsor overnight."

The new board promises it will do everything in its power to bring the stadium and playing surface up to a great standard ... we want to bring the fun and excitement back to the stands.

surface up to a great standard ... we want to bring the fun and excitement to the stands. It's a powerful brand name and we aim to build on it by broadening our supporter base and bringing back the passion."

Rados also believes that evening games will suit the fans and supports the principle of night games. "A beautiful summer evening, having a nice beer, watching a great team play in a nice stadium, that's got to be good."

Barry Horsfall, the club's new mar-

"When there's been basically nothing in place in the past it's not that easy. It's a major project for this new board. There's going to be a lot of hard work but the only way is up. I am paid to bring in new corporate sponsors and that's what I plan to do."

Horsfall worked for many years at South Melbourne and came out of "retirement" to work for the Knights.

Knight's won't be leaving the Somers Street site, preferring to improve it instead, although their change strip this

year will be green and white, with the home kit remaining red, white and blue.

Financially the club is in a solid position. "The sales of the stars of the past have meant that the club is in the black. The debts have been paid, now is the time to put money back into the stadium and club."

So why would your star striker, Tom Pondeljak, move given your new plans. "He wanted a new challenge and we don't stand in the way of players. It was amicable. Just on players we are looking at four players from overseas (two from Croatia and two from other countries).

"This is the last throw of the dice. We have to get it right. Having said that I am confident in my and the board's capacity to bring all the positives."

"There has to be a complete turnaround to be as big as a Spirit or a Glory, and that can only happen with the privatisation of the club."

It's interesting how the new guard is starting to make its mark. New Soccerroo appointment Frank Farina heads the new guard of Australian born coaches, South Melbourne have appointed Damien Phillips as their General Manager (ironically formerly of the Knights) and at Melbourne Knights the kids are taking over the club's board.

They should be applauded for having a vision for the club that includes marketing and promotions, something sorely missed in the past. Now, they need to back up their bold statements with tangible results.

However forming a winning side will be their biggest challenge this season.

BE REALISTIC SAYS STANGE

By Aidan Ormond

■ We started pre-season on August 1 with practically a new team because we lost altogether eight players. I was a little surprised because I did not want to lose so many players, but if a player has his mind set on Leeds United, or Spain, or Melbourne in the case of Markovski and Deans, then I can't stop them. Those are the words of Perth Glory's much-loved coach Bernd Stange, assessing the difficulties of ushering in a plethora of young new faces at Glory in only his second year in charge.

"It does make my job a little harder because it is a practically new squad and we are only three years in the NSL, and we don't have a youth team. The expectation is higher and higher after the finals," he said.

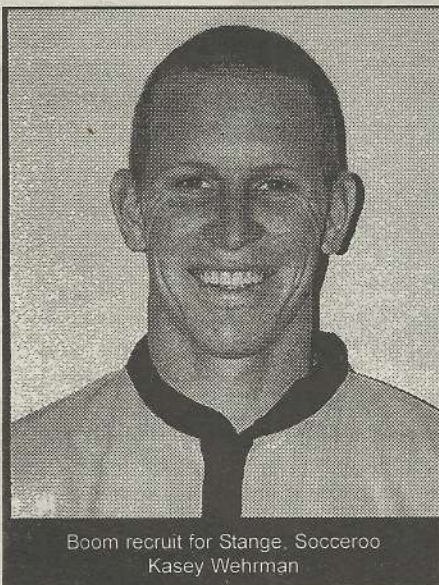
"The new players are young (Buljan, Wehrman, Ergic), but I am not sure how strong we are now. We have only 18 players at the moment. It makes me nervous when we must lose players like Wehrman and Milosevic to the Olyroos," he added.

Glory had 30 players on trial last week and perhaps one or two may be picked up. "I am in touch with one or two overseas players also, but I think at the moment it's hard for us to afford them ... perhaps next year," said Stange (pictured top right).

The new squad however may be turn out to be a virtue. "The younger players are our future. It is a little bit danger-

ous because if you have a mid-season slump it's good to have a bit of experience. Having said that we can now play a different way, more combinational, and more European with the younger players. The attitude is very professional in pre-season and now I think we can play at another level."

Perth's first game of the season is the long journey to the Latrobe Valley. "Gippsland Falcons will be a very tough game for us. They have a new board and coach with new ideas so it will be very



Boom recruit for Stange, Soccerroo Kasey Wehrman

tough for us."

He also added a note of caution on Glory's chances of capturing the title. "I

think we can finish in the top six again. We are not strong enough to finish in the top two with so many young players. I want to win a title but the facilities have to be more professional, which makes our job more difficult."

"I am very happy with the decision to build the new stadium by 2002, because we have to rent a ground at the moment, we travel from venue to venue for training and playing. We need this new stadium to be built so we can have professional facilities for the whole infrastructure. With this new stadium we will be good enough."

"The board has great marketing ideas ... we are a broad-based club which is very important and we will continue to follow our way."

On the national scene and Stange sees the appointment of an Australian-born Soccerroo coach as a plus. "I sent a letter to Frank Farina yesterday congratulating him. It's a great appointment. I started aged 36 as a national coach as well. My friend Thomas Doll (the German international) saw him play at Bari; Farina was a great player."

Still on the Soccerroos, it appears Kasey Wehrman will be part of the Soccerroo squad for the November Brazil tour even though the 21-year-old is currently injured (thus missing out on the Olyroo camp in London that started yesterday)

Troy Halpin, another of the Glory's international stars, has received a minor setback in his pre-season training, having



Bernd Stange ... sees both positives and negatives in losing many star players.

had arthroscopic surgery on a groin injury.

"It will take about three weeks for Troy to recover and after that he should be fine," coach Bernd Stange said in Perth.

Meanwhile, the Glory will get a chance to assess the best young talent in WA when it takes on the WA under-23 team in the Rotary Charity Shield, to be played at Litis Stadium on September 18. (Not a day later as was reported in Perth).

Also in are Perth teenagers Aaron Cole and Adrian Caceras, who have recently been on trial with the Glory.

Other potential stars in the under-23 selection include Fremantle's Gary Faria and Joe Vaz, Scott Devine, of Western Knights, Robbie Gaspar, of Cockburn, ECU Joondalup's Kevin Griffiths, David Annall from Bayswater and Sorrento's Todd Harnwell.

And tomorrow (Sep 1) Perth Glory will unveil their new kit for season 1999/2000.

A KNIGHT TO REMEMBER

After so much success as a player with the Knights, Biskic must be uncomfortable at Knights' current situation. No longer is Somers Street such a daunting proposition for opposing sides, who once made the trek with much trepidation.

I asked him how he felt about the current circumstances, what were the reasons, and what he thinks he can do to return the club to its former glories.

"Oh yeah! After so many years at the top of soccer in Australia, we have been struggling a bit in the last couple of years.

"In the season I left we won our first Grand Final, and then again the next year, but after that, we lost so many players.

"We're losing some players again this year. It's very hard these days to produce the players, especially youngsters, because as soon as they become recognised as a player and start to play in the first team you just suddenly lose them.

"When I came in 1982, Knights was always looking overseas for players to come here. But now it's a different situation - it's the opposite.

"We export so many players. As soon as you bring a player to (the NSL) stage, they just disappear - they just go."

Knights' financial position was rescued by the on-sale of ex-Knight Mark Viduka who moved from Croatia Zagreb to Glasgow Celtic mid-season.

How much of a life-line was that transfer?

"It helped us a lot. We were struggling financially last year and we'd lost so many players, and we couldn't afford to buy replacements.

We had to concentrate on what we had and try to develop those players. When the Viduka money came to the club it was a relief for everybody - at least in the short-term.

"We have to work even harder - myself, the players, committee-members, and our supporters - for the longer-term.

"But at least we have some basis now, financially, and we have some young players to develop.

Biskic's time as a player gave him some pedigree team-mates over the years.

Just a flick through the team-sheets of the period show that he's been in the same line-up as Jeff Oliver, Alan Davidson, Steve Horvat, Mark Viduka, Danny Tiatto, and John Markovski to name just a handful. How did he enjoy playing with such fine footballers?

"If you ask me to chose the best Knights team during my time as a player, I could choose 22 players!" he said, laughing. "All of the ones you'd mentioned had played for Australia, and some are with top overseas clubs - what can you say?

"Even last year Knights had players in the Olympic team - Joe Didulica, Dragi Nasteovski, Zeljko Susa. Probably I will lose those players also, as I said - as soon as you bring the players up, you just lose them. You can't blame the players - they're just looking for their future.

"I came here when I was about 22-years-old. I probably felt sorry for myself at the time, because I had the opportunity to play professional soccer (in Croatia). When I look back, and take everything into

THINK MELBOURNE KNIGHTS DURING THEIR PERIOD OF DOMINANCE AT STATE AND NSL LEVELS, AND THE NAME JOSIP BISKIC IMMEDIATELY COMES TO MIND. HE WAS THE STEEL WHICH GAVE THE INNER STRENGTH SO VITAL TO THE PERENNIAL CHAMPIONSHIP CONTENDERS, AND WAS A REGULAR IN THE SIDES FROM THE TIME OF HIS RECRUITMENT IN 1982 UNTIL RETIRING IN 1995. IN BISKIC'S LAST FIVE SEASONS, KNIGHTS FINISHED TOP OF THE NSL IN FOUR OF THEM, AND APPEARED IN FOUR GRAND FINALS, WINNING THE FIRST OF WHAT TURNED OUT TO BE A REPEAT PREMIERSHIP. NOW, KNIGHTS ARE GOING THROUGH AN UNUSUALLY BARREN PERIOD. MIDWAY THROUGH LAST SEASON, AFTER THE RESIGNATION OF VID HORVAT AND KNIGHTS IN THE NSL BASEMENT, BISKIC RETURNED TO TAKE CHARGE AT SOMERS STREET. KNIGHTS' FORTUNES STARTED TO TURN AROUND AND AS THE SEASON DREW TO A CLOSE, THEY WERE AGAIN SHOWING THAT THEY COULD BE A FORCE AT NSL LEVEL. INSIDE SOCCER'S ALAN CLARK MET BISKIC AFTER TRAINING LAST WEEK ...

consideration, I'm very happy about my decision to come here and play, and I'm very satisfied that I did - not only me, I would say my family as well.

"I'll have good memories of this club. I was so lucky because of the guys that played with me, and that I was part of that. I can't forget that - it's always been in my mind. We played some great soccer - we were one of the best clubs in Australia, and I can't ask for more."

Biskic has a massive job ahead of him - the level of expectation Knights supporters have is high, and he's a new coach. What will he draw on to help him turn things around?

"I'm still 'in' as a player, and that'll help me a lot. As a coach, I don't have much experience, but I can show my players what I want. It's different when you are a coach, but you can't show anything to the

much easier. There should be mutual respect, but when I earn the respect it's even better.

"When I took over as coach, it was really an unpleasant time (because of our position in the League).

"I tried to explain to the guys that in my days, every team that visited were scared. I told them I wanted them to do the same thing - 'Whoever comes to this ground has to be scared of you. This is your ground. I don't care who (the visitors are) you have to earn the respect of the other teams - put your heads up and fight.' And I think they really did that. Some games we played really well (even if sometimes) we lost them. But we showed that we had the spirit, and I was proud of what they did.

"As a player, I know that sometimes when you play really well and you lose the game, it hurts you.

"I remember the game we played here against Northern Spirit. We played a terrific

match, even if we lost 2-3. The players came back into the rooms and they were very disappointed

and I said 'Listen guys, if I had just come and sat in the grandstand to watch the game, I would have enjoyed it. There were five goals, both teams played some terrific action, what else can you ask for? What goes around, comes around. In the end, it will come - if you keep going, and doing the right things.' I believed that as a player, and now as a coach.

"I picked up various things from my coaches. It might have been a good ses-

sion, how he motivated a player, I would make a mental note, or write it down. I didn't think I'd be a coach - (I thought) if one day it comes, it comes, but it's come here so early. Whatever there is to read about soccer, or to watch - that's how you learn. You never stop learning until you die."

The expectations of the Committee and the supporters are always high - maybe unrealistically high given the re-establishing that has to occur. How will Biskic cope, and what will be his aim for the forthcoming season?

"When I came to coach here, I knew it was going to be hard. And the expectations here at Melbourne Knights - it doesn't matter (which players) you've got, who you have to work with - they always try to be on top, to achieve something.

"If I had the same players as I finished last season with, I would be very disappointed if we didn't earn a Top Six position. I think Susa and Nasteovski have gone, I'm not sure about Reda or Kutlesovski - whether they've been signed. That's about four guys from last season. When the season was finished, I mentioned to the Committee that I would like to re-sign those players straight away. It wouldn't have mattered who was going to be coach after. But it's been left until the last - I don't like that, I'll be honest with you - because players should always be first.

"Even now without those players my goal for this season is to finish in the Top Six, and it doesn't matter what players I have, I will be disappointed if I don't make it. But when you look at the different circumstances (of the squad at the end of last season compared to now), I have to be honest, if I finish in the middle of the table that would be great.

"My goal will be to finish in the Top Six. (I always had this goal) as a player, and now as a coach, and I hope my players think the same as me."



Flying away? Knights keeper Joe Didulica who is currently trialling in the UK.

players.

"But it's really good when you can do something, and show them how to do something in a technical session or exercise. That's helped me a lot.

"When they're doing some running, or special pre-season, I'm always in the front with them. When they see that I'm there with them, they can't complain. That helps me earn some respect with the players, and when players respect you, it's

AUSSIES IN EUROPE SPECIAL: TONY SEKULIC FROM MAINZ 05

By Andre Kruger

Earlier this season I went to the Niedersachsen Stadium in Hanover to see my home town team play Mainz 05. It wasn't a big second division clash but I wanted to see Aussie Tony Sekulic (the former Gippsland Falcons sweeper). The game was not too bad, Hanover winning 3-2. A fast and hard fought game with Sekulic playing quite well despite scoring an own goal. Sekulic returned to Australia in the off-season to get married, but before he left Germany I caught up with him

AK: Tony, it's your first season in Germany, how do you like it?

TS: Well, it's very different from playing in Australia, but I am enjoying it very much. It's a very big learning experience for the first season in Europe, but yes I am enjoying my football here.

AK: What do you think about the German second division. Is it stronger than Australia's Ericsson Cup?

TS: The soccer here in Germany's second division is stronger than Australia's A-League, with the tempo of the game, fitness, strength and speed. But one thing, Australian players have more skill, that is one thing missing here in this league.

Also you cannot compare the two leagues because Australia's is not full-time professional.

AK: What do you think about Germany? Are you homesick?

TS: Well, Germany is cold, a lot of rain, snow, hail and everything else. I will always miss home, my friends and family, but I've got over the homesickness. My new home is Germany and I'm enjoying my time here and hopefully there is many more to come yet. I can speak German now.

AK: Do you have the desire to play in the Bundesliga First Division or in England, or is that just a dream?

TS: As I say dreams come true only if you work hard enough. My aim is the first Bundesliga. When I first came to Germany I was on trial with Eintracht Frankfurt, but the problem was I was there without a manager. I was there for two weeks. But with hard work here in Mainz, the first Bundesliga cannot be far away now. I've already been having talks with two clubs in the first league.

AK: How did you get your contract with Mainz? Did they see you play in Australia?

SK: It was all through a football manager. At first I was on trial with RWD Molenbeek in Belgium. I was there for two weeks and they wanted me to stay, but I left to go to Eintracht.

Things did not work out the way I wanted so I went to Croatia for a holiday and Hajduk Split picked me up. I had been training there for three weeks. We were talking contracts but no agreement was reached.

So I left for Mainz to see what they had to offer me. If I had not signed with Mainz I would have gone back to Hajduk

Split.

AK: Are you in contact with the other Aussies in the second league here in Germany, people like Juric and Zrdilic?

TS: Well I do keep in contact with David Zrdilic of Ulm and Dennis Ailovic of Guetersloh. I played with both players in Australia. With Frank Juric I only have a little contact.

AK: How are your chances of playing for Australia in the future? Do you want to play for your country?

TS: My chances of playing for Australia have improved as a result of moving to Europe, but it all depends on performance, and at this moment I am playing well so I have a good chance.

I have also been contacted by Croatia but at the moment it is just small talk.

AK: After the disaster of missing the World Cup and being knocked out of the qualifying for the Confederations Cup, what do you think about Soccer in Australia at the moment?

TS: Well, not winning a place in the World Cup was a very big setback for Australian Soccer and Australia as a country.

The league would have improved 1000%, with professionalism, keeping players at home, increased sponsorship etc. The loss against New Zealand in the Oceania qualifiers was a disaster. The Confederations Cup has been Australia's World Cup event.

It puts players on the world scene.

They thought they could win it (against New Zealand) by using Australian-based players not European ones. New Zealand taught them a lesson.

AK: Is there a chance for your supporters to see you once again in the NSL?

TS: That a difficult question. When my dream to play football in Europe has now been reached I want to stay. But there is a chance towards the end of my career, say, when I am around 30-31 to play the last few years of in Australia.

I would then like to take up coaching and use some of my European knowledge. But that's in the back of my mind.

I want to concentrate more on Mainz and getting back into the Bundesliga first league.

Edited highlights of an interview by Andre Kruger from Aussie fanzine Studs Up.

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SOCCEROOS OF '74 SYDNEY REUNION

By Aidan Ormond

Last Tuesday in Sydney's west the heroes of our 1974 World Cup campaign met up, together with media, Soccer Australia board members and friends for a get-together dinner and auction. The money raised was for one of the fallen heroes of that illustrious squad, Jimmy Mackay, who passed away almost a year ago. Of the many items auctioned, including memorabilia from other sports, were World Cup '74 photos and mementos.

A very special guest of the 'Club 74' was 29-year-old Malcolm Mackay. The memory most people would have of this particular gentleman was of him as a child, sitting on his father's shoulders holding the boots that his Dad used to score a scorcher of a goal in Asia that got us to the 1974 World Cup.

It's a shot that captures both father and son beautifully.

"I think the significance of the night is more than it just being a night to remember

my father," said Mackay jnr. "It shows a strong ethic on behalf of the 74 players.

I asked him what were his feelings towards this group of men. "What I feel towards them is warmth," he said emphatically. "I also have a tremendous feeling of respect and pride, they really are a great bunch of guys. Great as a team and to a man.

"I don't think the Club 74 guys they ever wanted to be known as 'the only ones to qualify'. They would have preferred it if we had quali-

ly that the bond between the players now is even stronger. "These nights are special because it was so many years before we got together. Jimmy's death was a big loss.

"He may have kept some of his health problems to himself ... he was a character, we were always close, all of us. Jimmy is still one of the boys."

Watkiss also felt a sense of sadness that Soccer in Australia did not take off more after the '74 campaign. "Yes, it was disappointing that in the years after the World Cup we did not achieve the recognition we deserved. We also did not capitalize on it, we kind of fell in a hole."

However he does not believe that the current Socceroo squad will lack the spirit shown by his generation. "The current Socceroo squad has some damn good players, who make some incredible money compared to our days.

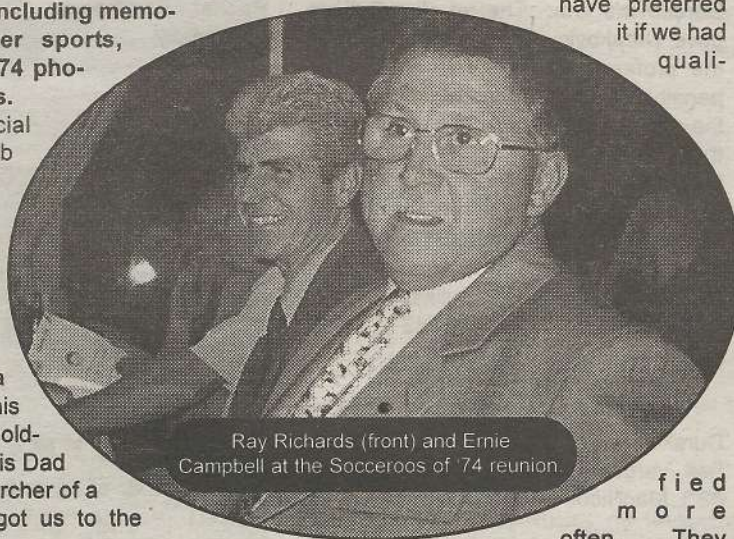
"They need to be together more, and once they do, you will see the spirit of the team rise. It's important that our current squad gets to train together as much as possible. These days the game is so much

faster and more technical."

Sadly not all the '74 Socceroos could make this evening, however current Socceroo coach Frank Farina did turn up, and, if he needed some World Cup inspiration, the games from Australia's World Cup of 1974 were shown on video screens around the venue.

A special night for a special bunch of Socceroos, and one in particular, who may have been looking down at his footballing mates from above.

As Malcolm Mackay reflected, with a just a hint of sadness: "I am just annoyed that my father can't be here to have a beer with me and his friends!"



Ray Richards (front) and Ernie Campbell at the Socceroos of '74 reunion.



Malcolm Mackay with the Socceroos of 1974 games playing on the video screen in the background.

3,600 FANS TURN OUT IN LISMORE

By George Green

Brisbane Strikers worked hard to overcome an enthusiastic Soccer Far North Coast side to take out the Southern Cross Credit Union Soccer Challenge match at Lismore's Oakes Oval last Wednesday night in front of a crowd of 3,600 fans.

The locals were not overawed by the former Ericsson Cup champions and raced to a 2-0 lead within the first quarter hour.

The first goal was a screamer, beautifully struck by guest player, Phil Moss of Northern Spirit, who ran onto a well weighted through ball from Far North Coast's striker, Steve Morrissey. The shot gave Strikers' goalie Clint Bolton no chance.

The second goal came when Steve Morrissey was upended in the penalty box. He stepped up and made no mistake with his kick to send the vocal locals into raptures of disbelief.

While the action was going, late arriving fans in a queue extending half a block could only guess at what was happening.

A couple mistakes after Morrissey's penalty, the Strikers showed their strength of character, when the popular Wayne Knipe, headed a curling cross into the net to make the score 2-1.

Coast's central defenders, Todd Gava and Jamie Austin forced the visitors to working down the flanks and exploiting their ability to put curling crosses accurately into the penalty area.

Their second goal came just before half time when a poor clearance fell to Strikers' midfielder Daniel Cummins who showed his class by driving a 35 metre shot into the top of the net, giving Far North Coast 'keeper, Adam Fittock, no chance and making the score respectable 2-2 at the break.

Strikers' coach, John Kosmina, gave a short, sharp pep talk to his team at half-time which lifted the side in the second half.

To the dismay of the fans it was former Lismore player, Paul Foster, who put his team into the lead by heading a cross from National League newcomer, Greg DiLosa into the net, ten minutes into the second half. Paul, and brother, Socorroo Craig, both played for Goonellabah, one of the stronger teams in the S.F.C premier competition.

Paul, three times winner of the Hong Kong Golden Boot Award, is trialling with Brisbane after a short stint with Northern Spirit at the end of last season.

One up, the Strikers stepped up a gear and virtually controlled play for most of the second half. Far North Coast had their chances and denied the visitors their fourth goal until almost the end when Scott McGuire smashed a close range rebound of substitute. Goalkeeper, Lucas Wagland into the back of the net, to make the final score 4-2.

The Southern Cross Credit Union Soccer Challenge is the first encounter for the Soccer Far North Coast (SFNC) with a national league side. In 1997 and 1998 a



"I could have had a hat-trick," said Wayne Knipe after the game.

local promoter and the North Coast Academy of Sport staged games between Marconi, Fairfield and the Strikers to raise funds for the Academy. The first game attracted over 5,000 fans, but last year storms throughout the region in the late afternoon affected gate takings.

The cost of flying Marconi to Lismore forced the locals to reconsider their options. Soccer Far North Coast, with 6,000 registered players, approached the Academy with a proposition to field a select local team against the Strikers.

The SFNC Committee believed that a team, selected from the SFNC's thirty-three clubs, would create more local interest than perhaps two teams from the National League playing a pre-season friendly.

The event would be less costly to stage and therefore the profit, to be shared equally by the Academy and SFNC, would be higher.

The Brisbane Strikers, always willing to help the cause of the world game, readily agreed to meet the local amateurs.

The response by the public on a later winter's Wednesday night surprised the organisers and already plans are afoot for making the Southern Cross Credit Union Soccer Challenge an Annual event.

Brad Maloney, captain of Marconi, was to be SFNC's second guest player but a niggling injury forced him to undertake the duties of signing autographs, presenting awards and selecting the man-of-the-match.

The award went to 18-year old Stars defender, Todd Gava, who astute judges believe will make the top, if he decides to move to a State League team or try out for a national league team.

Teams: SFNC. Adam Fittock (Goonellabah), Luke McAnelly (Richmond Rovers), Jason Collins (Southern Cross University), Todd Gava (Stars), Jamie Austen (G'bah), Daren Beardow (Thistles), Todd Patch (SCU), Troy Percival (Ballina), Anthony Alvos (Lismore Workers), Steve Morrissey (Thistles), Grant Nelson (Maclean), Damien Keever (Lismore Workers), Adam Hughes (G'bah), Craig Metcalfe (Stars), Lucas Wagland (Ballina), Phil Moss (Northern Spirit, guest player)

Coach: Jim Phillips
Managers: Wally Edwards and Nick Rudgley

Strikers: Clint Bolton, Glen Gwynne, Andrew Davidson, Shane Steffanuto, Leo Langone, Jeromy Harris, Wayne Knipe, Sean Cranney, Paul Foster, Greg DiLosa, Wayne Baldwin, Daniel Cummins, Ian Kebblewright, Naoki Amaya, Scott Macquire.

Coach: John Kosmina.

VIC'S BLUE RIBBON CUP

By Mark Fisher

The first double-header for the Blue Ribbon Cup, featuring all four Victorian NSL clubs, got under way at Bulleen's Veneto Club on Sunday. The tournament is an annual pre-season charity event in honour of Victorian police who died in service, such as Damian Eyre and Steven Tynan, after which last year's Tynan and Eyre Cup was named.

The first match saw the Melbourne Knights up against Gippsland Falcons in a mainly dour encounter. This was attended by a crowd of barely 500 people, which could be attributed to the lack of publicity the tournament received in the press. The pitch was soggy after recent rain, and the surface itself was not conducive to one-touch football.

It was quite a surprise to see Mehmet Durakovic playing for the Morwell club; a move which may have something to do with the fact both he and coach Jeff Hopkins formerly played in the Malaysian M-League together.

Gippsland began fairly strongly and the occasional run by Brian MacNicol kept the Knights on the defensive, at least initially. The Knights then seemed to settle, and the game got bogged down in midfield for much of the first half. Ransford Banini was prominent in defence, as was Jason Vukadin for the Knights.

At the other end, a cross by Ivan Kelic in the 22nd minute was mis-hit by Brandon Vassallo and so a clear chance went begging. Gippsland gave as good as they got in the first stanza, and were unlucky not to grab a goal of their own when Manny Gotis mis-placed his header in the 28th minute. At half-time the score remained 0-0.

In the second half the Knights started to dominate in the middle, restricting Gippsland's movement to mainly down the flanks. They blew another chance in the 60th minute when Martin Collins, -- who looked impressive -- fed the ball on to Mijo Trupkovic but his shot went wide. Ante Deak also made inroads into the Falcons' defence, and forced a good save from 'keeper Bojo Jevdjovic. Finally, the pressure told in the 89th minute, and a scrambled shot from Trupkovic connected with Mehmet Durakovic's arm. The ref, Jim Ouliaris, gave Durakovic a red card send-off for the professional foul. The subsequent penalty kick was converted by man-of-the-match Deak, sealing a 1-0 win for the Melbourne Knights over the Gippsland Falcons.

Scorer: Ante Deak (90").

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS:

John, Vargas R, Banini (Plunkett 69"), Vukadin, Rahjer, Collins, Vassallo, Deak, Magdic (Matkovic 83"), Kelic, Trupkovic

GIPPSLAND FALCONS:

Jevdjovic, Hopkins, Gotis, Durakovic, Fak, Marcina (Savage 51"), Bell, Vargas A, Becvinovski (Sapazovski 62"), MacNicol, Hutchinson

The second match featured back-to-back Ericsson Cup champions South Melbourne up against a new



Steve Panopoulos

Look

Carlton line-up, complete with British imports Mike Conroy and Dave McPherson.

Ex-Watford striker Stuart Slater was due to arrive the following day, and will be expected to further strengthen an already impressive Carlton attack. The crowd had more than doubled by the time this match kicked off, in anticipation of a skill-laden contest.

The match was certainly of a higher calibre than the earlier one, with some flowing, counter-attacking football (at times) a feature of the first half.

Andrew Marth quickly fired an opening shot in the sixth minute which was easily saved by confident South Melbourne trialist Milan Udvaracz, who was the stand-in man for Strasbourg-bound Michael Petkovic.

Eleven minutes in, a delightful play from Paul Trimboli to Michael Curcija and then inside to Steve Panopoulos had 'goal' written all over it, but Panopoulos sent his shot just over the cross-bar.

Carlton though started to control the midfield by late in the first half courtesy of Lubo Lapsansky, with an equally impressive performance from South's new signing and man-of-the-match Richard Alagich.

In the second half, both teams pressed hard for the winner, and consequently some of the flow went out of the match. A few bronze cheers went up from the South supporters when John Markovski came on in the 80th minute, as a substitute for Archie Thompson.

It looked certain to end 0-0 after 90 minutes, until Steve Panopoulos got free and slotted home at the death. Carlton ran out of time before they could reply, with barely a minute of stoppages allowed for by match referee Senko Rastocic, the match finishing 1-0 to the reigning Ericsson Cup champions.

Scorer: Steve Panopoulos (90").

SOUTH MELBOURNE:

Udvaracz, Iosifidis, Mustafa, Clarkson, Panopoulos, Alagich, Trimboli (Magnacca 65"), Curcija, Anastasiadis J (Tsekini 65"), Lozanovski, Liparoti

CARLTON:

Anastasiadis D, McPherson, Della Rocca, Marth (Tricarico 46"), Terminello, Atkinson, Moreira (Conroy 46"), Martin, Packer, Thompson (Markovski 80"), Lapsansky

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WOLVES MAKE SEMIS BUT FAIL TO IMPRESS

By Steven Webb

Wollongong Wolves progressed to the semi-finals of the David Carty and Peter Forsyth Memorial Cup after an unconvincing 2-0 win over a ramshackle Sydney United at Edensor Park on Sunday.

Despite a wealth of possession, particularly in the early stages of the game, Wolves' goals were the result of good luck

rather than design.

Both sides squandered easy chances, Sydney United wasting the best.

A heavy pitch and blustering wind made ball play unpredictable but after a couple of very loose balls Wollongong dominated with long periods of possession and strings of passes.

There were corners early at both ends, Rastall almost scoring an own goal.

Wolves scored after six minutes

when Chipperfield pounced on a Mikuletic fumble. With a goal under their belt Wolves looked sharp, accomplished and confident.

Sydney United looked lost and out-classed, repeatedly giving the ball away. But Surjan's crosses from the right and Chipperfield's from the left were not put away by Wollongong.

On the counter-attack, Pondeljak and Day put themselves in good scoring positions for Utd, and did nothing with them.

It took nearly half an hour before United made the most of a decent chance, Kupresak heading a corner and forcing a sharp save from Pogliacomi. Soon after, Pogliacomi had to make a diving save from a low Pondeljak effort.

Sydney United were coming back into the game at the end of the first half and Wollongong were blundering.

Chipperfield on a clear break down the left crossed too early to no-one; Petrovski hit a sitter straight to the United keeper.

United started the second half

hungrier and stronger.

Day missed a surprising chance heading at the far post after the wind took the ball beyond Pogliacomi. Pogliacomi was most disappointing with long crosses and corners.

Wollongong's second goal came from a Horsley penalty after a long Chipperfield corner landed on Savocca's outstretched arm.

Lahanas, coming on for the injured Surjan, showed good acceleration but often looked out of place and too often in Horsley's place on the park.

United couldn't get on the end of two balls through the Wolves' penalty area near the end of the game and the team's forlorn efforts were epitomised by Bard missing a gift just before the final whistle.

Bosnar was best for United, especially from his free kicks and speed at the back.

Arrarte was competitive and Pondeljak was threatening at the front as were Day and Kupresak in the air (though Kupresak was often beaten in defence by Chipperfield and Petrovski). Sydney United have a lot of work ahead of them.

For Wolves it was an inconsistently good, and bad, team effort. Bring on that new striker.

Wolves will play Northern Spirit at Marconi Stadium next Sunday in one of the semi finals.

Wollongong: Pogliacomi, Souris, Stanton, Horsley, Surjan (Lahanas), Dimoski (Reid), Chipperfield, Harlock, Spencer, Petrovski (Masi), Huxley.

Sydney United: Mikuletic, Rastall (Dee), Kupresak, Bosnar, Savocca, Arrarte, Pondeljak, Maric (Bosevski), Day (Bard), Moric, Genc.

NATIONAL NEWS ROUND-UP

Former Gippsland Falcons player, and assistant coach, Argentine Claudio Canosa (left), is looking for work. He is a qualified Level 3 coach and a fitness coach. He has been a loyal servant at Falcons and should be a good acquisition. He can be called

on (03)59770362 or mobile: 0412348267.

Still in Gippsland and First Division Round 21 was played on Sunday, the results were:

Droun Dragons - Churchill	0-2
New Yall - Sale City	0-0
Monash - Tyers L'ning	1-1
Moe Utd - Warragul	0-3
Fortuna - Olymplans	2-0

Bill Murray (not the actor!) is the new Head Coach of the Victorian Women's Team competing in the Ansett Summer Series. The Vics are now called Victoria Vision (no giggling in the back row please) and play their first game of the season on Saturday September 25 in Brisbane. All their home games will be played at the impressive Epping Soccer Stadium.

And still on the Women's game, the Women's Cup Final is to be played tomorrow night at the Epping Soccer Stadium between Westvale and Cranbourne Comets. Kick off is 7.30pm.

A legend of Canberra Soccer has decided to call it a day. Jimmy Hayes has been on the scene down there for 45 years. He has coached and played since coming over from England in 1955.

In the last two seasons he has been coaching at Belwest Foxes, although he has held the position of ACT Director of Coaching from 1991 to 1997.

Belwest Soccer Club President Alan Lee said the retirement of Hayes 'leaves a large hole in the soccer fabric of Canberra.'

Auckland Kingz in Sydney? It is expected that the new NSL franchise will be in town in the next few weeks.

This Friday (Sep 3) at 12.00 - 2.00pm see the fashion Parade of the new Perth Glory official merchandise at Forrest Place in Perth.

THE ADELAIDE FORCE TOUR OF SYDNEY

By Ben Cubby

Adelaide Force was in town for a lightning quick visit of Sydney, playing two games in 18 hours last weekend. IS was there of course to greet 'The Force', and this is what happened

The newly-christened Adelaide Force were defeated 3-0 by Sydney Olympic at Wentworth Park on Sunday afternoon, in the second match of their whirlwind visit to the harbour city.

Only the most ardent of Olympic supporters could take much pride from the victory though, as both coaches used the training match to experiment with new players and combinations.

Olympic had the Force under pressure straight from the kick-off and Adelaide's captain Alex Tobin had to clear a Peter Zorbas effort off the one in the second minute.

Three minutes later, Olympic's quicksilver striker Pablo Cardozo was bundled over in the box, earning a penalty. Last season's top goal-scorer dusted himself off and placed the spot-kick past Tony Breaden in the Adelaide goal.

Englishman Marcus Phillips doubled the scoreline in the 9th minute when he collected a loose ball in mid-field and sent a 25-metre volley hurtling into the net.

The Sydney side surged further in front after 20 minutes. Lyndsey Wilson's

low shot was only parried by Breaden, and Adrian Cervinski was on hand to tap the ball into an unguarded net.

Olympic enjoyed a territorial superiority for the remainder of the match, but neither side really looked like scoring. Adelaide was clearly feeling the effects of a hard game against Marconi the previous night, while Olympic gave a number of their younger players a run in the second half.

Adelaide's glamour signing Aurelio Vidmar showed a few slick touches, but drifted in and out of the match. The Force's 'Mr Reliable', Alex Tobin, was his usual solid self at the back, and so was defensive midfielder Carlo Talladira. Nick Sabljak replaced the ineffective Tony Joscovic at half time and sparked up the forward line with his positive, direct approach.

Things look promising for Olympic at this very early stage. Wilson appears to be a great off-season acquisition for the Belmore-based club. His incisive midfield work really benefits the players around him, and perhaps a place in the Olyroo squad in not too far away.

Gabriel Mendez, while not yet back to his brilliant best, showed that he will be a very slippery customer on the right side of midfield this season. Trialist Seb Sinozic did his cause no harm with an assured performance at sweeper, while exciting youngsters Nick Carle, Peter Zorbas and John Kyriazopoulos showed that there is

plenty of talent coming through the youth team at Olympic.

Sydney Olympic: Kourtis (Karoubas 77), Phillips (Bakis 57), Cardozo, Mendez (Miot 60), Wilson (Kyriazopoulos 55), Tsekenis (Kohler 57), Baillie (O'Grady 55), Zorbas, Cervinski (Arambasic 55), Kalantzis (Carle 60), Sinozic.

Adelaide Force: Breaden, Constanzo, Bum, Rees (Artone 46), Tobin, Talladira, Mori (Madarovski 46), Joscovic (Sabljak 46), Vidmar, Trifunov (Veart 46), Kim

The previous evening the Force was guest of the similarly evolving Marconi club where they were beaten 2-1 by the host team.

If this was supposed to be a friendly training run for both teams somebody forgot to tell the players.

Harry Karl, Marconi's trialist, can vouch for the ferocity of the game after a clash with Alex Tobin from which he emerged with blood streaming down his face.

Chad Gibson, with an absolute screamer, and Darren McDonald scored for Marconi whilst Socceroo Damian Mori replied for the visitors.

Both sides used the game to try out a plethora of players.



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PENRITH CHAMPS

NSW STATE LEAGUE RESULTS

Penrith Panthers came from fifth place in the premier-ship to snatch the 1999 NSW First Division championship when they defeated Premiers Manly Warringah 2-1 at St George Stadium on Sunday.

The Panthers had fallen behind to a cheeky Manly goal engineered by Alan Hunter, whose quick throw on the half way line to Dean Harding, well inside the Penrith half, but clearly within the laws of the game, allowed the league's top marksman to make a beeline for the goal and beat Mike Gibson with a clinical finish from an angle on the left.

Penrith fought back when Bob Casserly won a fierce challenge for possession 45 yards out that led to Danny Hinton getting away down the right and sending the ball into the box, where it was laid back into the path of Casserly by Alan Picken. Casserly then drove the ball firmly past Dean McCreath, from 15 yards out, to put his side back on level terms, with another 33 minutes left on the clock.

The tight contest continued until the 88th minute when Mark Higgins won the ball and sent Kaan Davies off on a run down the left and when the cross was delivered to the far post it was met with a superb volley by substitute Brett Buckpitt who had been on the field

only a matter of minutes and timed his run to perfection to grab the sensational winner for the jubilant Panthers.

It was a triumph for Penrith and their coach, former Soccerroo Stan Ackerley, as they had beaten all the other teams in the top five in rapid succession, doing it with a group of players who did not cost the club a cent.

They will take the opportunity to show off their skills and the trophy when they challenge Parramatta Power on Friday 10th September at Penrith Park when a large crowd should come along to pay homage and also check out the new Power potential.

Given the Penrith club's ambition it may not be long before Penrith are competing themselves at a similar level and this game will allow the club to gauge public support.

Manly Warringah: McCreath, Bastian, Moul, (Oppedisano), Walley, Foster, Barbalace, Townsend, Yates (Rosenthal), Hunter, Mikulski, Harding.

Penrith: Gibson, Grima (Cleary), Hawkins (Wozniczka), Davies, Wright, Higgins, Casserly, Tehliwec (Buckpitt), Hinton, Astone, Picken
Referee: Boyd McGregor

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Inside Soccer

is looking for photographers to cover National League games in all major Australian cities as well as NSW and Victoria State League Summer seasons starting in January 2000.

If you are a sports photographer with a background in football(soccer) looking for a publisher please send your details with sample material to:

Managing Editor
1/24 Prince William Drive
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DIVISION ONE GRAND FINALS:

FIRST GRADE: Penrith Panthers 2 bt Manly Warringah 1.

UNDER 21: St George 2 bt AC United 0.

UNDER 18: AC United 1 bt Penrith Panthers 0.

DIVISION TWO PRELIMINARY FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Sydney University 1 (RSmithies 89m) bt Fraser Park 0.

UNDER 21: Hills United 1 drew Hurstville ZSC 1(5-3 Pen).

UNDER 18: Hajduk Wanderers 4 bt Hills United 2.

DIVISION THREE:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:
FIRST GRADE: The Wanderers 2 bt White City 0.

SECOND GRADE: Trasandinos 2 bt Hakoah 0.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Hakoah 3 bt Western Sydney Lions 1.

SECOND GRADE: The Wanderers 1 drew Prospect United 1(The Wanderers 2 bt Prospect United 1 Extra Time).

DIVISION FOUR:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:
FIRST GRADE: Balmain vs Prairiewood United W/O.

SECOND GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde vs Nepean Association W/O.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Holy Cross Ryde vs Granville Greenisland W/O.

SECOND GRADE:

Prairiewood United vs Balmain W/O.

DIVISION FIVE:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:
FIRST GRADE: Kellyville Kolts vs Sporting SCC W/O.

SECOND GRADE: Kellyville Kolts VS Sporting SCC P/P.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: UTS vs Kosciusko W/O.

SECOND GRADE: Sydney Tusc vs Sydney United Kings P/P.

WOMENS SUPER LEAGUE:

GRAND FINAL:
FIRST GRADE: Marconi Fairfield vs Sutherland Sharks W/O.

UNDER 21: Marconi Fairfield

vs Sutherland Sharks W/O.

WOMENS STATE LEAGUE:

GRAND FINAL:

FIRST GRADE: Wollongong Wolves vs Manly Warringah W/O.

UNDER 19: Manly Warringah vs Wollongong Wolves W/O.

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE:

UNDER 13: Leichhardt Tigers 2 bt Wollongong Wolves 1, Gladesville Hornsby 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Parramatta Eagles 2 bt Marconi Fairfield 0, Sutherland Sharks 1 bt Sydney United 0, Macarthur Rams 1 drew Manly Warringah 1, Blacktown City 2 bt Southern Districts 0, Newcastle Breakers 1 bt Sydney Olympic 0, Gladesville Hornsby 3 bt Southern Branch 1.

UNDER 14: Leichhardt Tigers 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1, Gladesville Hornsby 6 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney United 4 bt Sutherland Sharks 1, Macarthur Rams 2 bt Manly Warringah 0, Southern Districts 1 bt Blacktown City 0, Sydney Olympic 4 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Gladesville Hornsby 1 bt Southern Branch 0.

UNDER 15: Leichhardt Tigers 1 drew Wollongong Wolves 1, Gladesville Hornsby 5 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Parramatta Eagles 0, Sutherland Sharks 0 drew Sydney United 0, Manly Warringah 1 bt Macarthur Rams 0, Blacktown City 3 bt Southern Districts 0, Newcastle Breakers 3 bt Sydney Olympic 0, Gladesville Hornsby 4 bt Southern Branch 0.

UNDER 16: Leichhardt Tigers 3 bt Wollongong Wolves 2, Eastern Suburbs 4 bt Gladesville Hornsby 2, Marconi Fairfield 1 drew Parramatta Eagles 1, Sydney United 3 bt Sutherland Sharks 0, Macarthur Rams 3 bt Manly Warringah 2, Southern Districts 3 bt Blacktown City 1, Sydney Olympic 2 bt Newcastle Breakers 1, Wollongong City 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 0.

DIVISION ONE YOUTH LEAGUE:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:
UNDER 13: Bankstown Association 1 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

UNDER 14: Ryde City 3 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1.

UNDER 15: AC United 2 bt Hills United 0.

UNDER 16: Bankstown Association 1 bt Blacktown Association 0.

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 13: Blacktown Association 3 bt AC United 2.

UNDER 14: Penrith Panthers 2 bt AC United 0.

UNDER 15: Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1 bt Bankstown Association 0.

UNDER 16: Stanmore Hawks 4 bt Illawarra Lions 1.

DIVISION TWO YOUTH LEAGUE:

PRELIMINARY FINAL:

UNDER 13: Ku-Ring-Gai Association 2 bt Mt Pritchard 0.

UNDER 14: Mt Pritchard 2 bt Camden Tigers 1.

UNDER 15: Parramatta City 1 drew Mt Pritchard 1 (Parramatta City 2 bt Mt Pritchard 1 Extra Time).

UNDER 16: Camden Tigers 1 bt Mt Pritchard 0.

CADET LEAGUE: DIVISION ONE:

UNDER 11: St George 7 bt Bonnyrigg White Eagles 1, Marconi Fairfield vs Sydney United W/O, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Ryde City 2 bt Parramatta City 1, Canterbury M'Ville 4 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Marconi Fairfield 2 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

UNDER 12:

Marconi Fairfield vs Sydney United W/O, Parramatta Eagles 3 bt Eastern Suburbs 0, Parramatta City 2 bt Ryde City 1, Canterbury M'Ville 2 bt Leichhardt Tigers 1, Marconi Fairfield 1 bt Eastern Suburbs 0.

DIVISION TWO:

MAJOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 11: Macquarie Sports 1 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

UNDER 12: Stanmore Hawks 1 drew Macquarie Sports 1(Stanmore Hawks 2 bt Macquarie Sports 1 Extra Time).

MINOR SEMI FINAL:

UNDER 11: Penrith Panthers 1 bt Hills United 0.

UNDER 12: CSI Scofields 3 bt Illawarra Lions 0.

SITTER! CONTINUED

...Tony Moran had developed a clever concept of a mythical team to satirise events.

Will you be working in with the Kingz? Will your fanzine be the one for Kingz fans or will it be a general NZ 'zine?

About 75 per cent of New Zealand fans will have no access to the Kingz matches.

Given the dearth of other soccer outlets in New Zealand we will retain our general overview, though I personally hope to go to every Kingz home match and at least one away match and give a personal account of my experiences.

A good fanzine should be interested as much in the consumption of the game as its production. I won't be working "with" the Kingz. I believe a good fanzine needs to keep its distance or it becomes sucked in and

becomes too much "of the system".

How important are fanzines in NZ? Can you effect any sort of change in the game or are you just a lone voice from the alternative media?

Fanzines evolved in Europe as an alternate to mainstream media which had become stuffy, distant, elite and stopped serving readers. But here in New Zealand we haven't got a soccer mainstream to break away from. So in one sense the advent of a fanzine here is a reaction to nothing happening, rather than something which is not liked.

Readers like humour. But it is hard to satirise incidents which have not been reported in the public domain in the first place. Others want simply to fill the horrific vacuum that exists in terms of soccer news in some areas of the country. (Third-world areas

like Auckland.)

Because we have no other soccer-specific publication in New Zealand, our influence far exceeds our circulation. Sitter is very important as the conscience of New Zealand soccer. In a sense we are not alternate enough. I am reigning NZ Soccer Writer of the Year, having been runner-up in 1997.

I've never thought of Sitter! as a lone voice. What is being said is far more important than how many people are saying it. (Old Chinese proverb: One soldier marching in the right direction is more effective than 10,000 going in the wrong direction).

What can we expect from Sitter in the coming season?

To a certain extent that depends on what absurdities our administrators dream up next. As I write I'm putting the finish-

ing touches to our post-Confed Cup issue. We'll go big on the U17 World Cup (and hope it is not a disaster), and thoroughly scrutinise the Kingz. I also what to do the definitive article on bad haircuts in New Zealand soccer over Christmas, picking our worst 20 of all time.

Sitter's tip for the Kings. Top six, top two Grand Final?

Hopefully we can knock Canberra off, but beyond that I'm not confident. Marcus Stergiopoulos looks the goods, and I hope Batram Suri signs. Let's wait and see.

Sitter! is available from 11 Thames St, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Subscriptions are \$A20 for five issues. (Cheques payable to B Holloway.)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

In two tough, exciting matches played on Saturday at Hindmarsh Stadium, Raiders defeated Campbelltown 2-1 in extra time. Campbelltown, down to only nine players for much of the second half, hung on desperately but finally succumbed to a Raiders golden goal.

In the late game, Cumberland Foxes, who finished second in the league, defeated minor premiers Port Lion Pirates 2-1. It appeared the Foxes would hang on to their one-nil lead for the duration of the match, but the Pirates scored half way into the second half. The game was headed for extra time when Cumberland's out-of-form striker Chris Nicholls got his head to a corner kick and popped the ball over the Pirates' keeper in the 85th minute. This was Nicholl's first goal for about eight weeks!

The Pirates play the Raiders next Saturday at Hindmarsh, with the winner meeting the Foxes in the final on Friday night, September 10.

In the State League Top Five Play-offs at Hindmarsh played on Sunday, Enfield City put paid to Salisbury United's aspirations with 1-0 victory, while Adelaide City decimated North East Metro Stars in a local derby 5-1.

Enfield City plays Metro Stars next Saturday to decide who will face the rampaging Zebras (or is it Force?) in the final, also to be played on Friday 10 September.

In the South Australian Women's Soccer Association Bailetti Cup final, played Wednesday 25th August, Modbury Northern All Blacks defeated the 1999 Premier League champions Adelaide City 2-0 to win the Bailetti Cup for the second successive season.

Meanwhile North East Metro Stars battled to a 4-2 win on penalties over the gallant Gepps Cross Girls High School.

ILLAWARRA PREMIER LEAGUE

With the last round being played next weekend the Premiers are known and the semi finals positions are all sewn up.

Northern United, after its hard fought 1-0 victory over the weekend, are the Minor Premiers, having a five point lead over the second placed Port Kembla.

The other two semi finalists are Bulli and Coniston. Bulli will remain in third spot as they are unable to catch Port Kembla who are four points in front of them.

Coniston are secure in fourth spot with the fifth placed Kemblawarra five points behind them with one game to play.

In the Bampton Cup games played last week a record crowd turned up at Crehan Park, Cringila.

In two entertaining games Port Kembla defeated Wollongong Olympic 2-1 with goals from Adrian Alston jun. and Michael Clare while Anthony Guido scored for Olympic; in the other game Northern United just scraped home 2-1 against a gallant Cringila Lions, with goals from Michael Gardiner and Gavin O'Brien while Paul Tutureski scored for Cringila. Michael Borg unluckily hit the bar late.

Northern United goalkeeper Thompson made some some spectacular saves to keep the score down for his side.

In the other games at Balls Paddock, Wollongong University beat Premier League team White Eagles 3-0 while Bulli won in a penalty shoot-out over Kemblawarra, after the score was locked 2-2 at full time.

ICU Premier League Standings

Northern United	51
Port Kembla	46
Bulli	42
Coniston	39
Kemblawarra	34
W. Olympic	26
Cringila Lions	25
Lysaghts	24
White Eagles	22
Shoalhaven City	20
Woonona	16
Fernhill	4

ICU Premier League Results - Rd 20

Kemblawarra	0	Port Kembla	2
Coniston	2	Fernhill	0
Northern U	1	W. Olympic	0
Bulli	2	Woonona	0
Shoalhaven	2	White Eagles	2
Cringila Lions	1	Lysaghts	3

ICU First Division Results - Rd 20

Illawarra Utd	0	Bellambi	3
University	0	Dapto	0
Tarrawanna	4	Picton	0
St Coast U	0	Shellharbour	2
Kiama	3	Warrilla Wand	1
Highlands	1	Helensburgh	3
Balgownie	0	Berkeley	2
Barbs	1	Western Sub	2



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PREMIER LEAGUE ROUND 22

- Cringila Lions v Kemblawarra - Crehan Park
- Port Kembla v Coniston Lions - Wetherall Park
- Fernhill v Northern United - Towradgi Park
- Wollongong Olympic v Bulli - Brandon Park No 2
- Woonona v Shoalhaven City - Ocean Park
- White Eagles v Lysaghts - Brandon Park

WOMEN'S GRAND FINAL

By Anya Whitelaw

Belconnen United secured the ACT Women's Soccer Association first division premiership on Sunday with a 3-2 win over the previously undefeated ACT Academy of Sport.

ACTAS led into the break, but Karen Heath's two goals in four minutes just after half time turned the game for Belconnen.

From the start Belconnen came out hard, Dior Foxhill's shot, from a well-timed tap through by Cindy Doyle, sliding across the face of goal ten minutes in.

Five minutes later, ACTAS keeper Amy Beattie was forced to dive at the feet of Danielle Hepperlin after a failed clearance by the ACTAS defence.

The pressure from Belconnen continued, a dangerous header by Karen Heath from a corner kick just clearing the cross bar.

Against the run of play, ACTAS were first on the scoreboard. Tal Karp switched play with a long ball to right winger Katrina Staniforth, who outpaced the Belconnen defence. An advancing Bronwyn Calver got two hands to Staniforth's shot but could not stop the

ball finding the net.

A few minutes later, Beattie was pulled up by referee Damien Beck for taking too many steps. Foxhill's indirect beat the ACTAS wall but just missed over the bar.

Doyle continued to pressure ACTAS. Beattie stopping her on three occasions just out from half time.

Straight after the break, Kim Channing almost scored for ACTAS. Belconnen providing the perfect counter attack through Danielle Hepperlin which forced a brilliant save from Beattie.

The resulting corner by Michelle O'Connor found Karen Heath, whose header levelled the scores.

Four minutes later, Heath scored her second by disposing Beattie who took a moment too long in clearing the ball.

Both teams worked hard to pressure their opponents, ACTAS almost breaking through in the 65th minute when substitute Caitlin Munoz was denied by Calver.

With less than 15 minutes to go, ACTAS' Mary Pelle was yellow carded for an infringement on Nubia Lopez in the box. Foxhill made no mistake with the resulting penalty, taking Belconnen to a 3-1 lead.

ACTAS worked hard to get back into the game,

pressing forward desperately.

Channing almost broke through from a free kick just outside the box, but Calver stretched to tip it away.

With one minute to go, Clare Madden scored on the far post, Staniforth weaving into the box to create the chance.

This was all too late for ACTAS, champagne flowing for the Belconnen side after the final whistle.

Belconnen coach Bridgette Starr had no doubts that her team would win. "We played over them most of the game, I think we fought well and our fitness showed, it was a well-deserved victory".

ACTAS coach Ian Murray said "We had more chances but didn't put them away.

Belconnen are just physically stronger and wanted it more, especially in the second half. But it was a great final and I was pleased with how we came back at the end".

Reserve Division was won 1-0 by ANU in extra time over Belconnen. Weston Creek Masters defeated ANU 2-1 in Second Division. Radford College took out Third Division with a 3-1 win over Girls Grammar and Fourth Division was won by Black Ewes, 2-0 over Weston Creek Wizards.

Brendas' cross powerfully into the net from close range.

After the game, a dispirited Giampaolo was left to ruminate on what might have been. "There was nothing to play for, for both teams. It's such a hollow feeling really, after all that we've been through during the year, all the hard yards."

With each of their three teams finishing their respective competitions in last place, Queanbeyan could easily be forgiven for being glad that a disastrous season was finally at an end.

New coach Martin Albright admitted that Queanbeyan faced a difficult future. "It was a big job when I took it on. I knew it wouldn't be fixed in one year," he said.

Albright is currently preparing a 5-year plan which will attempt to correct Queanbeyan's dire shortage of players. "Once I've got that organised, this club will have three good teams," he said.

Monaro proved too difficult a barrier for the Capital City Suns' minor premiership ambitions at Riverside Oval on Saturday with a gutsy 3-1 victory against the league leaders.

The Suns needed only to draw the match to clinch their first ever title in Canberra's top flight, but were outfought by a more determined Monaro outfit intent upon securing their own position in the top four.

If Saturday's game between Monaro and the Suns was any indication, the finals matches will not be lacking in either drama or intensity.

Both sides attacked aggressively from the outset, with Monaro's first goal arriving in the fifth minute after captain Danny Macor was judged to have been tripped in the Suns' penalty area.

Macor's striking partner Lazar Simeonov coolly slotted away the penalty to give Monaro the early lead, and 11 minutes later they went further ahead.

This time Joe Campagna's long through ball found Simeonov in acres of space, and the pacy marksman managed to find the back of the net despite a diving effort from Suns' keeper Tony Giannasca.

However, the Suns fought back immediately with a goal from the competition's leading scorer, Tony Lemezina, who connected with a pinpoint cross from midfielder Stan Blazevski.

Monaro regained their two-goal cushion

only seconds before half-time, when the Suns were unable to clear Macor's free-kick, allowing Darryl North to head the ball into the top left corner of the goal.

Although the second stanza did not produce any further addition to the scoreline, it certainly added plenty of controversy, with the Suns denied a penalty and also having a player sent off for dissent.

Suns' coach and club president, Bill Dojcinovski, felt a number of factors had conspired against his side. He was "very disappointed" in the referee's performance, and added that his team's preparation had been poor due to a number of player injuries and absences.

"Up till the last half-an-hour we didn't know what the team would look like ...but Monaro - they were prepared, they were hungry, they wanted to win and they done it," Dojcinovski said.

Monaro coach Andrew Monterosso was full of praise for his team's display.

"I don't think there's a team in the competition that can match us on our day," he said. "But you have to keep that performance up week in and week out through the semi's."

Weston Creek Royals outclassed a raw Burns Club outfit to the tune of 8-0 with five of these going to Steve Lazzari thus securing him the Golden Boot for the second time in three years.

All the damage was done in the first 22 minutes when Weston were five up. Burns were rarely in the game and their only clear cut chance was in the final minutes of the game when Sam Huggins chipped the Weston keeper, Troy Boots, only to see the ball go the wrong side of the upright.

Yesterday Tony Lemezina scored for Suns thus moving him a goal ahead of Lazzari. It took Steve only 41 seconds to fix that problem. A clearance from Peter Thompson went straight to Tim Dale at the half-way line. He chested the ball down and sent a ball through to Lazzari. Steve rode the defender and shot truly giving young Joachim Milsom no chance.

Thirteen minutes later and Steve wrapped up the title. Manuel Sermenio took the ball down the right to the goal line and cut it back for Lazzari to volley home from close range.

Another four and it was the turn of Lazzari's partner in crime, Peter Hader to get on the scoresheet. A corner from Martin Lazzari fell on the edge of the six-yard box. No-one cleared and Hader put it away with his first chance.

Three more and it was 4-0. Another corner on the right for Martin Lazzari, but this time the ball came in at the near post. Tim Dale challenged for the ball and the keeper tried to palm it away, but there were too many bodies in the way. The ball continued on its merry way and Martin was credited with the goal.

The fifth nail in the coffin came only one minute later. Fabain Serena beat Lazzari and then attempted to play a one-two with Ross Crawford. Peter Hader read the play and intercepted. He took the ball into the box and his shot came off the inside of the left hand upright for the score.

A little respite before the half-hour mark. Dion Cannell sent a cross from the right that went over Thompson and fell to Lazzari. He turned Thompson and sent a bullet that was too hard for Milsom to handle.

Both sides settled down after this hectic half-hour and there was no more scoring until the break, although a Cannell volley was well saved by Milsom.

Eleven minutes into the second half and Lazzari notched his fourth. Martin sent another

CANBERRA SOCCER COMPILED BY NICK GUOTH

corner from the right and this time it went to the far post where his brother Steve was free with enough time to volley home.

The final goal of the match came ten minutes later when Steve Lazzari recieved a long ball from the left. Again he turned his defender, as with his third, and sent a shot into the bottom right corner.

Weston pressed for more and except for the one chance to Huggins dominated the rest of the play. Hader could have grabbed a hatrick as well on the day, but he miskicked a layback by Hassan Adhami and sent the ball wide with an open goal.

"I think we outplayed any side in those first 25 minutes", said Weston coach Jimmy Bland. "The boys showed a lot of character and the passing and movement off the ball was excellent."

Steve Bryant said that his team new that the season was over for them before they kicked off. Even so, "we did better in the second half and allwe need now is for the lads to start learning a bit quicker."

Canberra Deakin turned in a dominant performance to defeat Belconnen United 4-1 at Hawker on Sunday afternoon.

Belconnen could have taken out the minor premiership with a victory by two goals, but they now miss out on the finals altogether. This means the Capital City Suns clinch the title.

Deakin scored first in the 22nd minute from a free kick outside the box on the left side. Marcello Munoz curved a brilliant right foot strike into the top right hand corner where Belconnen keeper Rade Kosanovic never had a chance.

The games turning point came one minute from halftime when Deakin were up 1-0 and dominating play. Belconnen's Scott Manson was sent off upon receiving his second yellow card for elbowing Anthony Rakic in the head. From there it seemed Belconnen were never in the hunt.

In the 62nd minute Deakin scored their second when Anthony Barac ran onto a long cross from halfway and slotted the ball past Kosanovic.

Seven minutes later Munoz notched his double when he headed in a cross from Rakic on the left side.

Belconnen got a consolation goal in the 85th minute when Peter Farrelly drew Deakin Goalkeeper Pedro Pavez and passed to Daniel Camara who slotted it home.

Ben Deighan was one of Deakin's best, and he capped off his game with a powerful strike two minutes later. Stan Dukic laid up a soft pass directly in front on the outside of the box and Deighan hammered it into the top left corner.

Aside from Deighan's class in the mid-field, Munoz, Rakic and Barac created havoc amongst the Belconnen defence, while Deakin skipper Mladin Rogic was solid at the back. For Belconnen, Farrelly and Ray Junna never stopped trying.

Continued Page 15

Canberra Olympic took out their frustration at missing a semi-finals berth on an outclassed Queanbeyan City at Riverside Stadium on Sunday.

What began as a competitive, if one-sided, match degenerated into a rout in the second half, with Olympic turning their half-time lead of 1-0 into a 7-0 thumping.

Olympic coach Baz Giampaolo dusted off his red boots to play a full match up front, while his midfield combination of Njegosh Popovich, Robbie Grande and Tim Moustakas were allowed enough time on the ball to wreak havoc with Queanbeyan's leaky defence.

Olympic brought up the first goal of the game in the 3rd minute after Grande curled in a cross from the right. Giampaolo chested the ball down into the path of Popovich who steered the ball into the Queanbeyan net via the left upright.

Despite dominating for the remainder of the half, Olympic were unable to increase their lead due to some bad luck and some desperate defending by Queanbeyan.

Goalkeeper Jovanov Haumovski saved brilliantly to deny Popovich and Moustakas on separate occasions, fullback Ilija Jordanoski cleared a Peter Mazis effort off the line, while a Takis Arvanitis thunderbolt from distance rattled a post.

Although Queanbeyan had defended grimly while they remained only one goal behind, all pretence of resistance vanished soon after the break.

In the 56th minute, Moustakas squared the ball to Popovich just outside the Queanbeyan penalty area. Olympic's midfield general side-stepped a couple of attempted tackles before placing the ball into the bottom right hand corner.

If that goal broke Queanbeyan's back, four goals within ten minutes threatened to turn the game into a farce. In the 67th minute, a Grande cross from the right found substitute Brendas unmarked at the far post for an easy tap in.

Within a minute of the restart Grande repeated the dose, this time providing another perfect ball for Mazis to head home.

Giampaolo set up Brendas' second a few minutes later before Daniel Raad added to Queanbeyan's woes with Olympic's sixth goal of the game.

All that was left was for Olympic's ever-green coach to notch up a goal next to his own name, and this he duly achieved just seconds before the final whistle when he headed

Premier League Division 1:

	1st	U23	U19
Capital City v Monaro	1-3	2-8	3-4
Belconnen v Can Deakin	1-4	0-1	2-3
Weston Royals v Burns	8-0	2-0	7-0
Gungahlin v U. Canberra	1-1	1-2	3-0
Queanbeyan v C. Olympic	0-7	1-13	2-3

Premier League Division 2:

1st Grade:
ANU 3 O'Connor Knights 1,
ADFA 2 Sabres FC 2,
Belwest Foxes 1 Cooma 2,
Tuggeranong 7 White Eagles 0

Res Grade:

ANU 1 O'Connor Knights 4,
ADFA 3 Sabres FC 1,
Belwest Foxes 2 Cooma 0,
Tuggeranong 5 White Eagles 1

Final Table:

	P	W	D	L	B	F	A	Pts
Capital City	18	12	2	4	2	53	25	40
Weston Creek	18	9	6	3	6	47	23	39
Monaro	18	10	4	4	4	50	26	38
Canberra Deakin	18	11	3	4	1	44	20	38
Belconnen United	18	11	2	5	2	45	21	37
Canberra Olympic	18	11	2	5	1	44	22	36
Gungahlin Juve	18	6	3	9	3	32	39	24
Uni of Canberra	18	3	2	13	2	27	48	13
Burns Club	18	3	0	15	0	14	74	9
Q. City Lions	18	2	0	16	0	23	82	6

Semi-Finals

Major Semi-Final @ Riverside Stadium
Capital City Suns v Weston Creek Royals

Minor Semi-Final @ Majura Oval

INSIDE JUNIOR SOCCER

Ram

BILL TURNER CUP



This week we feature a letter from a reader emphasizing the importance, value and potential of the Bill Turner Cup.

I read with interest that serious attempts are now being made to expand the Bill Turner Cup to cover all of Victoria, the sooner the better.

The Bill Turner Cup is quite unique and invaluable in that it is the only semi-national (NSW, QLD, ACT and Vic border) high school soccer competition that is contested by schools of all backgrounds including boys and girls. Successful schools in this year's competition came from as far afield as Northern Victoria, Cairns, Toowoomba, Gold Coast, Brisbane, Rural NSW, the Hunter Region, Wollongong, ACT and Sydney.

Because of soccer politics that had nothing to do with what is best for soccer (whatsoever) the Bill Turner Cup came close to folding. However, the worst is now past and it is time to move forward again.

IN recent times overseas clubs and even our local clubs have become increasingly aware of the potential and value of OZ soccer talent. Because of its diverse structure the Bill Turner Cup is probably the best way for aspiring high school players to showcase and compare

their skills, especially those from rural areas.

It's about time all those interested parties who are circling prospective OZ talent like sharks on a feeding frenzy acknowledged the value of the Bill Turner Cup and helped to finance its operation and expansion on a continuous basis. For what in today's soccer is a trifling amount of money the Bill Turner Cup could quickly be extended to cover all of Victoria and, soon after, South Australia and Tasmania, with Western Australia and Northern Territory following. Underwriting and developing the Bill Turner Cup concept is in the interest of developing the game in Australia as well as the business of soccer that the game has become worldwide. As the saying goes, 'JUST DO IT', need I say more.

Yours in soccer,
R. Melor, Bondi

Country schools are often the unsung heroes of the Bill Turner - achieving success against schools often four and five times bigger than them.

Notre Dame College, Shepparton (pictured above) is such a school. This year they won the final of the Riverina Group by beating



Notre Dame College, Shepparton ... for a small school a great run in '99

Cootamundra High School on penalties after the game ended in a 2-2 result. This is the second year in a row that the school is the Riverina and Northern Victorian champions. In the pre-quarter final against Figtree High, unfortunately, Notre Dame went down one goal to nil in a very even game.

BILL TURNER CUP RESULTS: Quarter Finals:

Pennant Hills 2-4 bt Westfields 2-2,
Figtree 3 bt Daramalan College 2,
St Augustines Cairns 3 bt Brisbane Grammar 0.

CHS SOCCER KNOCKOUT FINALS NIGHT

MARCONI STADIUM
FRIDAY 3RD SEPTEMBER 1999

6PM - COMMONWEALTH BANK SHIELD FINAL

GIRLS: Westfields Sports v Endeavour Sports

8PM - COMMONWEALTH BANK CUP FINAL

BOYS: Westfields Sports v Bossley Park

CAS SELECT TEAMS

U-16 to play North Harbour v South Harbour, Sept 4:

South Harbour: T Brack M Ehrlich S Walker M Haslen (Cranbrook) R Churchill P Ng N Stecher J Mouawad G Green (Trinity) J Young J Harcombe J Doi-Nivison P Wiltshire (Waverley). Coach: N Brack (Cranbrook). Training: Queen's Park Sept 4, 4pm.

North Harbour: D Pelosi B Wilford B Michaelandros W Bosco T Birrell A Perkes (St Aloysius) A Nutall H Selinger J Probert J Farrow S Gregory (Knox) T Williamson A Binsted (Barker). Coach: J Vuletic (Knox) J McGrath (Barker). Training: Knox Sept 2, 4pm.

CAS REPRESENTATIVE v AICES at Melita Stadium Sept 2:

First grade: N Reed Z Jex M Gurrello (Waverley) A Theobald (c) L Gray (Trinity) H Beveridge C Jones (Barker) P Anguita (St Aloysius) M Drummond A Teghini (Knox) J Jackson (Cranbrook). Coach: J Starreveld (Knox). Mgr: G Blazey (Cranbrook).

Second grade: T Glen (Cranbrook) A Roughley T Corte (Knox) J Thanyankittikul F Barcelo (Waverley) P Stibbard N Sinclair (St Aloysius) D Corden T Taylor (Trinity) A Leonardi M Davidson (Barker). Coach: J Sowden (Barker).

Third grade: C Nakousis (c) J Cochineas D Arcella A Chapman (Trinity) S Deveney (Barker) A Demahicor A Poustakas (Waverley) O Sattor (St Aloysius) A McIlray S Waite (Knox). Coach: J Fitzgerald (St Aloysius).

Res: L Malane T Russell (Trinity) P West (St Aloysius) M Mazzaferro (Cranbrook)

CANBERRA SOCCER CONTINUED

Continued from Page 14

Deakin coach Bernie Lustica was ecstatic with his team's performance. "The guys knew that they'd need to play nice soccer and that's what they did. Full credit to them, they just played out of their skins today."

Belconnen coach Lino Fiorese was philosophical, praising his

side's performance over the course of the season, but disappointed with the game's result.

"Unfortunately, today we weren't the better side overall. They

created early chances which was a little bit of a problem, and I think maybe they were a little bit more desperate than we were."

In a game of absolutely no importance to either team, Gungahlin Juventus and the University of Canberra played out a 1-1 draw at Jamison Oval.

Simon Foxhill scored for University midway through the

second half after the Juventus keeper, Denis Langone, was unable to hold a stinging shot from Dustin Wells. Foxhill was on hand for the crumbs.

With ten minutes left in the game the gates to the Pacific Ocean opened up for George Cattnach after some misunderstanding in the Uni defence. Cattnach knew what to do and Chris Freeman had no chance to stop the shot.

Both teams had some chances to win the game, but the result probably left both clubs not unhappy and looking towards next year.

Juventus caretaker coach, Frank Cachia, said "it was not much of a game, and it showed." He gave praise to Craig Rankine and Jason Markesic and a special mention to 15 year old Carl Valeri.

Rod Lynes said most of his team put in a good effort and he was quite happy with Gary Parkin who made the step up to first grade.

WEST HAM TURN TABLES ON METZ



Another goal from Lampard

Metz 1 West Ham 3

ball in the net on the quarter hour when Keller played Di Canio in with a clever ball but as he tucked the ball home the linesman's flag had already gone up.

Lampard's shot deflected through a crowd of players for Foe to react first with a swivelling shot that beat Letizi but again the Hammers were thwarted by the offside flag.

On 23 minutes, however, Di Canio, architect of so many of West Ham's moves, set up Sinclair whose rasping left-foot drive nestled itself into the bottom of the net.

Wanchope then hit the bar for West Ham with what looked like a cross.

But the Hammers were able to celebrate a vital second goal when Lampard played the ball down the right for Di Canio and then raced into the box to volley home the resulting cross.

Metz paid for the wasteful finishing of Louis Saha in the second half but still had enough chances to equalise.

Meyrieu, who had been a threat throughout, struck a 35-yarder that came crashing off the bar.

But substitute Jestrovic did pull a goal

back for Metz in the 68th minute. He teased Steve Potts, shuffled to his left and hit a blistering effort beyond Hislop's despairing dive.

Metz, now scenting blood, piled forwards but the Hammers soaked up the pressure and then found a killer third goal on the break.

Moncur threaded a pass through the home defence and Wanchope cleverly rounded Letizi to put the tie beyond any doubt.

Hammers boss Harry Redknapp brought on Joe Cole for Di Canio and he had two efforts towards the end, neither of which troubled the goalkeeper.

The match conclude without too many further incidents and a relieved West Ham moved through to the next round.

There was a brief skirmish on the terraces during the second half when the away fans appeared to be sprayed with tear gas but the situation calmed down.

FC Metz: Letizi, Pierre (Asuar 45), Gaillet (Jager 76), Schemmel, Kastendeuch, Meyrieu, Toyes, Marchal, Gousse (Jestrovic 56), Saha, Boffin.
Goals: Jestrovic 68.
West Ham: Hislop, Ferdinand, Lomas, Foe, Sinclair, Lampard, Di Canio (Cole 79), Keller, Potts, Moncur, Wanchope.
Goals: Sinclair 23, Lampard 43, Wanchope 78.
Agg: (2-3)
Crowd: 19,599

West Ham turned the tables on Metz to book a place in the UEFA Cup for the first time in their history.

The Hammers, trailing 1-0 from the home leg, were in the driving seat by half-time as Trevor Sinclair and Frank Lampard grabbed the goals that gave them a 2-1 aggregate lead.

Substitute Nenad Jestrovic pulled a goal back for Metz in the 68th minute but the Hammers were still on course for victory on away goals.

And Paulo Wanchope fired the final nail in Metz's coffin 11 minutes from time when he latched onto a John Moncur through ball and served up a cool finish.

The Hammers had an early scare when Toyes glanced a header wide from Meyrieu's cross.

West Ham had the

LATE DOUBLE WINS IT FOR SAINTS

St Johnstone 2 Vaasa 0

A dramatic late double from substitute Miguel Simao secured St Johnstone's place in the first round of the UEFA Cup and shatter the hopes of the plucky Finnish team Vaasa.

A lack of penetration has been a worry this season and once again a failure to kill off the opponents made it a nervous finale for the home side.

But the Portuguese striker came on for Nathan Lowndes in the 80th minute and eight minutes after his arrival he latched onto Ged McMahon's pass to drill the ball home past Vaasa's substitute keeper Henri Sillanpaa.

The striker wrapped things up in injury time after taking the ball round Sillanpaa to slot home for his second of the night.

Vaasa knew they had to score after the first leg finished 1-1 in Finland and St Johnstone again squandered a number of great opportunities to cruise to a more comfortable victory.

In the 18th minute Gary Bolland tried to pick out Nick Dasovic in the box but his cross was just too powerful for him to convert.

Jim Weir got on the end of Kane's cross but he was unable to get enough contact to trouble the keeper. After the restart St Johnstone came out looking for that important second to settle their nerves. In the 70th minute Kane should have given his side the breakthrough after being sent clear by Lowndes but he dwelled too long on the ball.

Moments later and it was the Vaasa defence that began to look nervous as Darren Dodds was given two chances to score in a frantic goal-mouth scramble. But the keeper blocked both efforts to frustrate the home side.

In the 79th minute Sillanpaa had to be alert to thwart McMahon's effort but the Saints went in search of the killer goal - enter Simao, who came on for Lowndes to finish off Vaasa with two clinical strikes. The Finns did have their moments and in the 39th minute striker Antti Pohja, who scored in the first leg, fired in a shot but it lacked the power to trouble Alan Main.

St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Bolland, Dasovic, Weir, Dods, McAnespie (Grant 56), O'Neil, Lowndes (Simao 80), McMahon, Kane.
Goals: Simao 87, 90.
Vaasa: Stringhim (Sillanpaa 70), Kautonen, Koko, Jallonen, Kangaskorpi, Sihvonen, Enqvist, Essandoh, Jaakkola (Nygard 84), Pohja, Kaijasitta.
Agg: (3-1)
Crowd: 8,392

CELTIC IN EASY WIN OVER WELSH

Celtic 4 Cwmbran 0

Celtic knew that they had this match wrapped up after the thrashing of Cwmbran in the first leg and they put on a poor performance lacking in intensity.

Nineteen-year-old substitute Jamie Smith shook the home side out of their lethargy on his debut, the youngster smashing home the second from the edge of the area just past the hour.

The teenager's goal doubled an advantage given to them in the ninth minute by Norwegian striker Harald Brattbakk, who raced onto a Regi Blinker through ball before slipping his shot under the advancing Steve Morris.

Smith provided the cross which Johan Mjallby converted to make it three and second half substitute Tommy Johnson bagged number four in injury-time as Celtic, already 6-0 up from the first leg, completed their expected two-legged triumph.

Brattbakk's goal atoned for an earlier dreadful miss when he allowed Aizlewood to clear off the line after hitting the rebound to a Johan Mjallby header which had crashed against the bar.

Celtic spent the rest of the opening period weaving pretty patterns in midfield without committing a defender to make a tackle.

Aizlewood was playing behind a back four, which was reinforced by a four-man midfield who almost joined their defenders in one long line across the Cwmbran penalty area.

It was a basic tactic but one which thwarted Celtic all too easily.

Busy teenage striker Mark Burchill looked for a chance and Brattbakk provided one midway through the first half, only for the Scotland Under-21 international to slam

his shot against Morris.

After a bright opening, former Ipswich man Bobby Petta started to run down blind alleys on the left, while Blinker was equally ineffective on the right.

The Dutchman saw a cleanly-hit volley saved at full stretch by Morris, who, while still on his knees, shuffled across to paw the ball to safety as Burchill advanced.

It was Celtic's last chance of a half which saw the home side booed into the tunnel, after Cwmbran striker Deiniol Graham had raised ironic cheers with his side's first shot on goal - a 35-yard attempted lob which bobbed harmlessly wide two minutes from the break.

Smith made his momentous first appearance at the start of the second half, Morten Wieghorst the man making way.

Petta switched wings and Blinker moved into the centre of midfield to allow Smith a wide role on the right.

But the teenager could only stare in disbelief as Celtic continued to pour forward, reach the massed ranks of the Cwmbran defence then pass the ball square or backwards instead of trusting their ability to beat inferior, part-time opponents.

Then the innocence of youth prevailed just before the hour as Smith seized the opportunity to show what could be achieved.

Mjallby turned home Smith's cross to make it three, before Johnson concluded the scoring.

Celtic: Kharine, Stubbs, Brattbakk, Wieghorst (Smith 45), Petta (Johnson 71), McKinlay, Blinker, Healy, Riseth, Mjallby, Burchill.
Goals: Brattbakk 9, Smith 60, Mjallby 66, Johnson 90.
Cwmbran: Morris, Willis, John, Blackie, O'Brien (B. Graham 79), Summers (Goodridge 88), Moore, D. Graham, Wigley (Pattimore 88), Aizlewood, Fletcher.
Agg: (10-0)
Crowd: 46,975



Harald Brattbakk opened the scoring

EXTRA TIME WINNER

Kilmarnock 2 Reykjavik 0

Kilmarnock were almost beaten by a ten men Reykjavik team but they marked Rugby Park's 100th anniversary night in dramatic style.

The Ayrshire club were on the verge of exiting the UEFA Cup against the Icelandic part-timers who held their 1-0 first-leg advantage until the 90th minute.

The visitors had been expected to be on the defensive, but instead at once turned their attention to securing an away goal, Danielsson heading over from close range.

Reykjavik were reduced to ten men just before half time when Winnie felled McCoist on the edge of the area and suffered a second book-

ing. Durrant's free-kick for the foul prompted another stunning save from Finnbogason as the game remained goalless to the interval, Reykjavik still that goal in front on aggregate.

Kilmarnock's dominance needed a goal and as time wore on the Kilmarnock faithful started to lose patience with their side's inability to make the breakthrough as a Baker-volley went narrowly wide.

In the final minute the game took a stunning twist as a Durrant shot struck the hand of Danielsson and referee Livio Bazzoli awarded a last-gasp spot kick.

Club record signing Wright

was given the responsibility and with the whole crowd behind him calmly slotted home the penalty to take the game into extra-time.

Now the initiative was Kilmarnock's and just two minutes into extra-time they moved 2-0 ahead on the night and 2-1 overall when Bagan superbly curled a shot into the top corner.

Kilmarnock were given a scare when substitute Indridi Sigurdsson fired just wide from the edge of the area as the home team hung on.

Kilmarnock: Meldrum, MacPherson, Henry (Bagan 70), Holt, Wright, Durrant, McCoist (Jeffries 70), Mahood (Vareille 46), Baker, Dindeleux, Lauchlan.
Goals: Wright 90 pen, Bagan 92.
KR Reykjavik: Finnbogason, Porsteinsson, Gislason, Egilsson, Winnie, S. Jonsson, Juliusson (P. Jonsson 46), Danielsson, Hinriksson, Gunnugsson (Sigurdsson 82), Benediktsson (Birgisson 62).
Agg: (2-1) After extra time
Crowd: 11,760

CHELSEA IN A CANTER

Skonto Riga 0 Chelsea 0

Chelsea breezed past Latvia's Skonto Riga to join the group rounds of the Champions League Cup for the first time in their history.

Holding an unsailable 3-0 lead from the first leg at Stamford Bridge a fortnight before, Gianluca Vialli's team were never seriously troubled during the entire 90 minutes.

The only possible criticism could be that they failed to make the most of a handful of chances to score

but then again, with no bookings or injuries and a clean sheet, little more was required of the side on the night.

It was a no-frills performance that led to a match which was hardly compulsive viewing but was no less professional because of it.

In fact, it was a classic SAS raid - the Armed Forces rather than Sutton and Shearer version - in and out with a minimum of fuss before anyone has really noticed that you were ever there in the first place.

Achieving victory was all that mattered, given not only the pride but also the potentially lucrative financial bonanza on offer at stake to join the elite of European football in the group stages of the competition.

After all, this was the route taken by Manchester United in defeating Polish side LKS Lodz on their way to the Treble last season and far tougher tests await.

Much less inauspicious surroundings will

also lie ahead but then again that would hardly be difficult.

For the match was played in front of a small crowd congregated on just one side of the pitch in the solitary stand, with a wide athletics track separating spectators from the pitch.

Indeed, the atmosphere often resembled more of a pre-season friendly than a Champions' League tie, with the players easily



Marcel Desailly

heard above what little noise came from the crowd.

As preparations for glittering nights against the likes of AC Milan, Barcelona and Real Madrid go, it was akin to Robbie Williams warming up for a concert at Wembley Stadium by taking part in a karaoke session at the local pub.

But a job still had to be done and with Marcel Desailly and Jes Høgh assured at the back, Jody Morris and Dennis Wise adeptly controlled the game from midfield with their industry, simple passes and determination to constantly make themselves available.

The watchword was keeping possession, a point constantly made to his team-mates by the vociferous Wise, and Skonto rarely looked like reproducing the threats which they posed in the opening half-hour at Stamford Bridge.

They had

all of three pot-shots on goal in the opening period, when Chelsea should have easily taken the lead on the rare occasions that they raised the tempo above walking pace.

Tore Andre Flo was only denied by an outstanding reflex save by keeper Aleksandrs Kolinko, while Høgh headed the ensuing corner narrowly wide.

With Chris Sutton and Gianfranco Zola both rested, Mikael Forssell was Flo's strike partner and the young Finnish forward bustled around up front and put a glancing header just inches wide.

The Latvian side did at least try to come forward more in the second period but even though Ed De Goey allowed a shot by David Chaladze to slip under his body, the ball still went a couple of yards wide of the post.

The same player also crossed dangerously into the area, forcing De Goey to push the ball out but Desailly was on hand to clear calmly.

Even a flurry of late corners for the home side came to nothing and Chelsea boss Gianluca Vialli was able to give experience to fringe players Carlo Cudicini, Jon Harley and Mark Nicholls as his side assured their Champions League place.

The metamorphosis of a club who struggled through years of under-achievement but have now been reborn as a fashionable, cosmopolitan home for the stars of Europe had been completed.

Skonto Riga: Kolinko, Silagadze, Zemlinskis, Blagonabzdins, Rekhviashvili, Bleidelis (Menteshashvili 75), Rubins, Miholaps, Laizans (Kolesnicenko 87), Astafjevs, Chaladze (Babichev 83).
Chelsea: De Goey (Cudicini 79), Petrosescu, Babayaro, Høgh, Desailly, Poyet (Nicholls 64), Wise, Goldbaek (Harley 83), Flo, Morris, Forssell.
Agg (0-3)

Crowd: 5,023

RANGERS SURVIVE ITALIAN TEST

Parma 1 Rangers 0

Parma substitute Johan Walem's goal in the 68th minute gave Rangers heart palpitations in the last 30 minutes in the Champions League Cup third qualifying round.

But their 2-0 home win in the first leg was sufficient for them to join Manchester United, Arsenal and Chelsea in the round robin format.

The players did a jig of delight at the end as the supporters lapped up the moment.

Rangers had to dig deep, especially in the first half when Parma had the majority of the possession but could not make the break through.

Rangers manager Dick Advocaat sprang a surprise by excluding Scotland winger Neil McCann from his starting line-up.

Instead Polish international Dariusz Adamczuk, a free transfer signing from Dundee in the summer, was drafted in presumably to stiffen up the midfield.

French keeper Lionel Charbonnier retained his place for Rangers after showing he had recovered from a knee injury in the 4-1 victory against Dundee United at the weekend.

Craig Moore and Claudio Reyna both picked up knocks in that game but were in the starting line-up tonight.

Parma's season does not start until the weekend but they warmed up for the game by lifting the Italian Super Cup with a 2-1 win against AC Milan at the San Siro.

Hernan Crespo, who scored in the match and showed he on his way to full fitness after a hip injury, retained his place in the side.

Parma, who finished fourth in Serie A last season, has been very impressive in recent years in Europe.

They lifted the UEFA Cup for the second time in four years in May, after beating Rangers along the way.

As expected the Italians began by putting Rangers under intense pressure in an attempt to peg back a two-goal deficit.

Adamczuk got in a vital challenge after five minutes, forcing Paolo Vanoli to sky the ball into the crowd after Ariel Ortega and Diego Fuser had linked up.

The Rangers midfielder again covered well five minutes later to shut out Crespo after he had been released by Ortega.

Then it was Charbonnier's turn to come to Rangers rescue, flying across his goal to superbly turn away a 20-yard free-kick from Ortega.



Lorenzo Amoruso ... celebrates

The Scottish champions were finding it difficult to get out of their own half in the opening stages.

Marco di Vaio scorned a fine chance of putting Parma back in the game, heading wide following a great run and cross from the left by Lilian Thuram.

Rangers were showing no lack of aggression with skipper Lorenzo Amoruso and Rod Wallace both picking up bookings in the first half.

In the process, of course, they were conceding a number of free-kicks in dangerous positions.

However, Charbonnier was not troubled by Vanoli's effort, taking the ball comfortably on his chest.

Rangers almost got a vital away goal on the stroke of half-time when Tony Vidmar surged down the left. But his cut back to the waiting Michael Mols was poor and keeper Gianluigi Buffon was able to gather safely.

Rangers adopted a different attitude at the start of the second half and rocked Parma. Vidmar rattled the woodwork with a stunning left-foot drive.

However, Parma pulled a goal back in the 69th minute after a dreadful error by Charbonnier who allowed a 20-yard free-kick from Walem to spill out of his hands and trickle over the line.

Walem's goal left Rangers facing an anxious half-hour and Parma twice almost pulled level on aggregate.

Parma: Buffon, Lassissi, Tomisi, Thuram, Fuser, Baggio, Boghossian (Stanic 64), Vanoli (Serena 79), Ortega, Crespo, Di Vaio (Walem 64).
Goals: Walem 68.
Rangers: Charbonnier, Porrini, Moore, Amoruso, Vidmar, Reyna, B. Ferguson (Albertz 73), Van Bronckhorst, Adamczuk (Hendry 83), Wallace (McCann 60), Mols.
Agg (1-2)
Crowd: 28,500

UNITED CONFIDENT IN EASY GROUP

Manchester United face a comfortable start to their campaign to defend their Champions League title after being handed a relatively easy draw for the first group stage. United will lock horns with Marseille, Croatia Zagreb and Austrian side Sturm Graz in Group D.

The Treble winners should have an easy passage into the second phase and they begin the defence of the trophy at home to Croatia Zagreb on September 14.

Club director Mike Edelson said: "Last year we had the group of death with Barcelona and Bayern Munich so we are pleased with this draw."

"We've not played any of the sides we've been drawn with before in a competitive game, although we did play Sturm Graz in a friendly."

"So we are all looking forward to the matches."

Marseille's striker Fabrizio Ravanelli virtually conceded top spot in the group to United. Marseille were runners-up to Bordeaux in the French first division last season, and former Middlesbrough striker Ravanelli said: "We have landed on our feet. Manchester United are favourite for top spot but we can finish second which would be enough to qualify."

"I know Sturm Graz and Croatia Zagreb well. The Austrians are very tough and solid at home."

"Zagreb have an excellent technique but we are favourites to finish second."

"When I was in England I played at Manchester. It is very difficult to go to a stadium where 60,000 people are backing the home team."

CROATIA THROUGH



Two goal hero Josip Simic

Croatia, Zagreb travelled to Budapest to meet MTK in the second leg of the final qualifying of the European Champions League. They managed to turn the tables on their Hungarian opponents when they beat them 2-0 after the two teams were scoreless in the first leg played in Zagreb.

Backed by a travelling 4,000 strong support of the infamous Bad Blue Boys(BBB), whose vocal support totally overwhelmed that of the home team support, the visitors descended upon their near neighbours in a confident mood.

The BBB occupied the whole section of the northern stand which was awash with blue flags and large signs of Dinamo, as the BBB refuse to acknowledge Croatia's name change. It was an atmosphere that was reminiscent of Maksimir, Croatia's home ground - it felt like a home game for Croatia.

The first half was bereft of quality football and ended scoreless. Croatia held the upper hand throughout but created few opportunities, and those that they did create they wasted.

Croatia's captain Robert Prosinecki was man marked and held in check by the MTK defence and as a result there was little organisation as the visitors missed the creative genius of its playmaker.

The start of the second half was almost the end of Croatia as the MTK had two strong opportunities but, fortunately, goalkeeper Drazen Ladic was in a good position and was able to thwart the MTK attackers.

The home team started to dominate the second half when a timely counter attack was started by Igor Biscan.

MTK 0 Croatia 2

In the 54th minute he pushed the ball a little too far in front of the attacking right wing back Tomislav Rukavina but the wing back pursued the ball and was able to retrieve it right on the by line. Not only did he reach the ball Rukavina managed to conjure up a cross towards the MTK penalty box.

Helped on by a slight deflection of Loerinz the ball ballooned over the 'keeper Babosa and the alert Josip Simic was first to the ball and headed it into the empty net from two metres.

A goal away from home was the tonic that Croatia needed because now MTK had to score twice to advance to the main draw of the Champions League. The goal also meant that the home team had to open up more in search for their own opportunities and this would



Robert Prosinecki

allow the speedy Croatia youngsters, Mihael Mikic and Simic more counter attacking chances.

Croatia soon had such an opportunity - a counter attack led by Mikic resulted in a corner from which Biscan found himself in a good position to score. Unfortunately his strong header was wide of the goal and the danger was averted.

The Hungarians became more desperate to score as the half progressed and they became more aggressive and physical with the visitors become somewhat rattled by the home team's strategy.

Finally, with six minutes left on the clock another

counter attack, again involving the two speedy attackers, laid to rest MTK's ambitions. Mikic provided an excellent cross from the right and waiting in the middle was his partner in crime, Simic, who jumped the highest and headed the ball past the 'keeper into the net to provide the visitors with a safe, and final, 2-0 scoreline.

Soon after, the home team's aggression overstepped the mark when Komlosi was dismissed for rough play.

The game ended tamely and although a better performance was expected from the Croatian team, in the end it is the result that counts and the scoreboard shows Croatia clear winners and advancing to the round robin of the Champions League.

Croatia coach Osvaldo Ardiles was not pleased with the performance of the team but happy with the result.

"We've won the most important game for this season and we've qualified for the Champions League. That was the objective for the season and we have succeeded.

"The match wasn't the best, it was a very nervous game. Mikic turned the game around for us with his speed."

Captain Robert Prosinecki said: "We are the better team but we had to prove it. That we did, and I couldn't be happier."

Biscan commented: "It was hard, they played a closed game and waited for us to make mistakes, but they didn't succeed.

"I'd like to thank our supporters, it was great playing in front of a full stadium, without our supporters we couldn't have won, nobody has supporters like we do."

MTK: Babos, Loerincz, Feher (Kovac 83), Komlosi, Kuttar, Szamosi, Eros, Madar, Illes, Helder (Preisinger 77), Ilea (Egressy 46).

Croatia: Ladic, Juric, Bliscan, Tomas, Rukavina, Mujcin, Prosinecki (Jelicic 82), Jurcic, Cvitanovic, Kozniku(Mikic 46), Simic (Sokota 87).

Goals: Simic 54, 84.

HAJDUK ADVANCES

Dudelange 1 Hajduk 1

In the UEFA qualifying game Croatia's Hajduk Split played its second leg against Dudelange after having beaten its opponent 5-0 at home in the first leg.

The home team, fearful of another heavy defeat was very tentative and allowed Hajduk the early initiative, concentrating on defence rather than trying to score goals.

An indication of the overall trend of the game was the fact that Hajduk had thirteen corners to the home team's one.

In the first half Hajduk had a number of scoring chances with Matic, Vucko, Bulat, Skoko and Leko all wasting opportunities.

In the second half the home team decided to attack more and took the game up to the visitors. In the 47th minute Kabongo almost scored but made up for the miss two minutes later when he did convert an opportunity to put Dudelange one-nil in front.

In a very ordinary game the only player that stood out was Jazic and it

was he who scored the equaliser in the 61st minute. He won the ball at the half way line, w a l t z e d past a couple defenders and from just outside the penalty box his shot found the net to post the final 1-1 result.

The two leg series resulted in a 6-1 win to Hajduk - a result that sees Hajduk advance to the main draw of the UEFA Cup where they will meet Bulgaria's Levski Sofia.



Josip Skoko

DUDELANGE: Koch, Kaba, Funck, Ubaldini, Gomes, Galli, Morgante, Barnabo(Morgante 78), Alijaj(fanelli 69), Balenga(Posing 57), Kabongo
Goals: Kabongo 49
HAJDUK: Sunara, Mise, Matic(Miladin 61), Grdic, Bulat, Jazic, Skoko(Lalic 57), Leko, Vucevic(M.Bilic 54), Vucko, Deranja.
Goals: Jazic 61

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE GROUPS

Group A: Lazio Bayer Leverkusen Dynamo Kiev Maribor Teatonic	Group E: Real Madrid Porto Olympiakos Molde
Group B: Barcelona Fiorentina Arsenal AIK Stockholm	Group F: Bayern Munchen PSV Eindhoven Valencia Glasgow Rangers
Group C: Borussia Dortmund) Feyenoord Rosenborg Trondheim Boavista	Group G: Spartak Moskva Girondins Bordeaux Sparta Prag Willem II Tilburg
Group D: Manchester United Olympique Marseille Croatia Zagreb	Group H: AC Milan Chelsea

UEFA CUP FIRST ROUND DRAW

Aris Soloniki (Gre) v Sevette (Swi)	Celtic (Sco) v Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr)
Inter Bratislava (Svk) v Rapid Vienna (Aut)	HJK Helsinki (Fin) v Lyon (Fra)
Omonia (Gre) v Juventus (Ita)	Sigma Olomouc (Cze) v Real Mallorca (Spa)
Cryena Zvezda v Montpellier (Fra)	Grasshoppers (Swi) v Akademisk (Den)
Ajax (Ned) v Dukla Banska Bystrica (Svk)	CSKA Sofia (Bul) v Newcastle (Eng)
Partizan Belgrade (Yug) v Leeds (Eng)	Dynmao Bucharest (Rom) v Benfica (Por)
Bodo Glimt (Nor) v Werder Bremen (Ger)	(Por) Budapest (Hun) v Fenerbache (Tur)
Helsingborgs (Swe) v Karpaty Lviv (Ukr)	Viking Stavanger (Nor) v Sporting Lisbon (Por)
Lausanne (Swi) v Celta Vigo (Spa)	AK Graz (Aut) v Spartak Trnava (Svk)
Skonto Riga (Lat) v Widzew Lodz (Pol)	Ionikos (Gre) v Nantes (Fra)
Parma (Ita) v Kryvbas Kryvyi (Ukr)	Hapoel Haifa (Isr) v Club Brugge (Bel)
Wolfsburg (Ger) v Debrecini (Hun)	Anorthosis (Cyp) v Legia Warsaw (Pol)
Teplice (Cze) v Ferencvaros (Tur)	NK Gorica (Slo) v Panathinaikos (Gre)
Tottenham (Eng) v FC Zimbru Chisinau (Mol)	Steau Bucharest (Rom) v Lask Linz (Aut)
Atletico Madrid (Spa) v Ankaragucu (Tur)	Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) v Bologna (Ita)
Maccabi Tel Aviv (Isr) v Lens (Fra)	Roda (Ned) v FC Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr)
Beira Mar (Por) v Vitesse (Ned)	Kaiserslautern (Ger) v Kilmarnock (Soo)
Monaco (Fra) v St Johnstone (Soo)	Levski Sofia (Bul) v Hajduk Split (Cro)
FC Torpedo Kutaisi (Geo) v AEK Athens (Gre)	Locomotiv Moscow (Rus) v Lyngby (Den)
West Ham (Eng) v Osijek (Cro)	Vejvodina (Yug) v Slavia Prague (Cze)
Locomotiv Tbilisi (Geo) v Salonika (Gre)	FC Zurich (Swi) v Lierse (Bel)
Amica Wronki (Pol) v Brondby (Den)	Stabaek (Nor) v Deportivo La Coruna (Spa)
Roma (Ita) v Vitoria Setubal (Por)	Udinese (Ita) v Aalborg (Den)
Anderlecht (Bel) v NK Olimpia (Slo)	
Lech Poznan (Pol) v IFK Gothenburg (Swe)	

CAMPBELL DEMURS ON SPURS

Tottenham manager George Graham has questioned star defender Sol Campbell's commitment to the club.

The injured England defender has said he is not prepared to discuss a new contract at White Hart Lane until the end of the season at the earliest.

And Graham admits it also saddens him that Campbell's Spurs and England team-mate Darren Anderton seems to have left it until his own contract is up for renewal to produce consistently brilliant form.

Both players have so far refused all Tottenham's offers to extend their contracts and Graham is convinced that it is because Anderton will become a free agent under the Bosman ruling transfer laws at the end of this season while Campbell will be in the same situation a year later.

Last week Campbell's adviser, Sky Andrew, issued a statement saying that the player would not take part in any new contract discussions until at least the end of the current campaign.

Although Italian giants Roma are reported to have revived their interest in Campbell he

has insisted he does not want to leave Spurs and Anderton, who is much admired by Manchester United boss Alex Ferguson, has also affirmed his commitment to the club for at least the rest of the season.

But Graham said: "If Sol loves Spurs surely he and his agent should be talking to the club and thrashing out a new contract. The statement he has made has shocked and disappointed me."

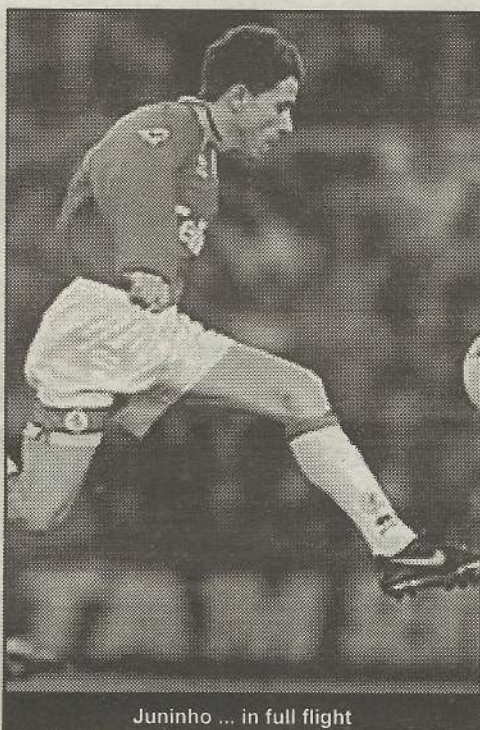
"Why are they postponing it to the end of the season? He's had an offer and won't discuss it but I suppose that shouldn't surprise me. He's obviously wanting to keep his options open."

"I'm not suggesting he won't give 100 per cent for Spurs on the field. Not at all. And the same applies to Anderton. He's playing very well but why has it taken until now? It's clearly

because he's playing for a new contract, whoever offers it, but that to me is very sad."

"Players are entitled to use the Bosman ruling to their advantage but it makes it very difficult for a manager who is trying to build a side. I would just like to see a bit more honesty."

"I'm not resigned to either of them leaving in the end but you've got to accept that players will go this sort of route now. They've seen it work out for Steve McManaman who let his contract run out at Liverpool and got himself a fabulous financial deal with Spain's Real."



Juninho ... in full flight

SEEDORF - I'M YOUR MAN

Double European Cup winner Clarence Seedorf has told Alex Ferguson that he is the man to replace Roy Keane.

The Real Madrid midfielder is ready to quit Spain after a row with new boss John Toshack.

And despite intense interest from Italian giants Inter Milan and Lazio, the Dutch international has revealed that he would jump at the chance to move to England.

Arsenal have already expressed their desire to rival the Italians in the chase for the 23-year-old, but it is Manchester United whom particularly excite him.

"Manchester United are the champions of Europe and it would be an honour to play for them if they were ever interested in me," he said.

"I like English football. I've watched a lot of it and it is very exciting, it seems like a great league to play in."

"I don't know what the future holds for me yet, but I think that one day I would like to play in England because it would suit my style of play."

In particular, Seedorf believes that he has the ability to replace Keane - the man regarded as currently the best midfielder in Europe.

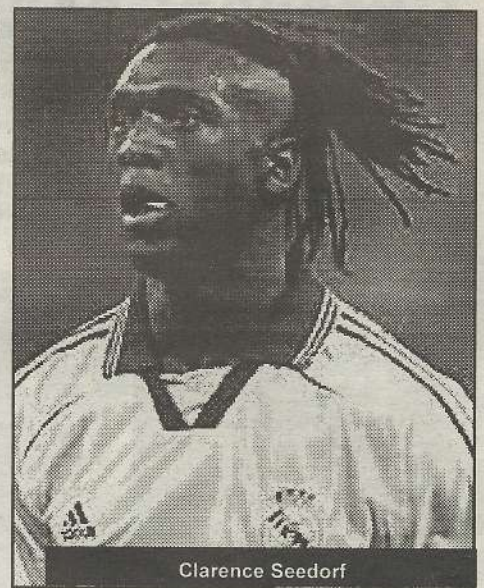
The Dutchman said: "I like Roy. He is a tremendous player and I think United will miss him if he chooses to leave."

"I don't think we are the same type of player but we do perform a similar role and if United were ever interested in me then I will regard that as being a compliment. I like Arsenal too. They have a big reputation and some very good players."

Seedorf was put in the shop window by Madrid when he scored and performed brilliantly in a 4-2 victory over AC Milan last week.

It is widely believed in Spain that Seedorf played his last match for Madrid then, and will now be sold swiftly with several English clubs lining up to rival Inter and Lazio.

Newcastle expressed a strong interest in the player earlier in the summer, but Seedorf turned down the chance to link up with fellow Dutchman Ruud Gullit.



Clarence Seedorf

JUNINHO AND 'BORO?

Middlesbrough have confirmed they are holding talks with Atletico Madrid over the return of Juninho to the Riverside Stadium.

A deal is not imminent though, as Middlesbrough would prefer a loan deal with a view to a permanent transfer.

Manager Bryan Robson wants to check the fitness of the player who has not recaptured the form that made him a Boro idol during his two years in the Premiership.

Robson, who sold Juninho to the Spanish club for £12million two years ago, said: "We are in negotiations with Atletico Madrid. We have given way on certain things and have not on other things."

Atletico would prefer a straight cash deal for a player who would welcome a move back to Middlesbrough to revive his career after a broken leg dashed his hopes of playing in the World Cup finals.

STIMAC TO WEST HAM?

Igor Stimac is poised to join West Ham after they agreed an undisclosed fee for the Croatian defender with Derby.

Stimac, 31, is talking to Hammers boss Harry Redknapp who needs to strengthen his backline.

He is currently without defenders Neil Ruddock, Javier Margas, Ian Pearce and Scott Minto, while Rob Jones and Gary Charles are yet to put pen to paper at Upton Park after training with the club.

Stimac moved to Derby from Hajduk Split nearly four years ago and helped to mastermind their promotion to the Premier League in 1996. However, he has been badly hit by injuries since then and only managed 14 League appearances last

season.

Derby manager Jim Smith, who put Stimac on the transfer list in May, said: "It's the nature of the game. Players dictate what they want nowadays."

"No-one had come in for him and we were delighted to have him on board but Igor has only got one year to go on his contract and he said he felt he wants to move on."

"He didn't play enough games for us but he's done a marvellous job and it's just the case at any club that things need to be changed."

Stimac's transfer has been on the cards for the last few weeks but his injury track record is making Redknapp think long and hard before making a final decision.

If he moves to West Ham, Stimac will link up with ex-Derby team-mate Paulo Wanchope, who joined the Hammers for £3.5million.



Igor Stimac... on the move

PEARCE BACK IN ENGLAND SQUAD!

Veteran defender Stuart Pearce admitted to being "gobsmacked" after Kevin Keegan handed him a dramatic England recall at the age of 37.

Keegan has handed the West Ham player the chance to add to his 76 caps, more than two years after his final appearance in an England shirt against Italy in Le Tournoi.

But he has no doubts that Pearce is the best available option for the vital European Championship qualifying clashes with Luxembourg at Wembley on September 4 and in Poland four days later.

Left-back Graeme Le Saux is currently injured but Pearce, who has twice retired from international football, has got the nod ahead of Sunderland's Michael Gray who played in the disappointing 1-1 draw in Bulgaria in June.

Barely 90 minutes after the squad announcement the squad had suffered its first withdrawal when Tottenham defender Sol Campbell pulled out.

He has been out with a calf injury since the opening day of the season.

Keegan clearly believes that the never-say-die attitude of Pearce is the kind of quality that will be needed, particularly for the make or break clash with the Poles in Warsaw when a play-off place will be at stake.

Pearce's inclusion was the biggest surprise

in the 27-strong squad, which includes Paul Scholes who is suspended for the Luxembourg game.

But there were also eyebrows raised over the exclusion of Manchester United's prolific striker Andy Cole while Middlesbrough midfielder Paul Ince's hopes of a recall have also been dashed - although Keegan insisted the international door remained open.

Pearce learned of his shock catapult back into the England scene in a telephone call from Keegan on Wednesday.

Keegan said: "I have recalled him because when you look at the options available at this moment, he is the best player to play in that position."

"He loves playing for England. He will give me 100% and it's nice to see him back in an England squad."

England Squad:

Seaman (Arsenal), Martyn (Leeds), Walker (Tottenham), G Neville (Man Utd), P Neville (Man Utd), Adams (Arsenal), Southgate (Aston Villa), Pearce (West Ham), Woodgate (Leeds), Campbell (Tottenham), Ferdinand (West Ham), Keown (Arsenal), Batty (Leeds), Dyer (Newcastle), Anderton (Tottenham), Beckham (Man Utd), ParLOUR (Arsenal), Redknapp (Liverpool), Shearer (Newcastle), Fowler (Liverpool), Owen (Liverpool), Sutton (Chelsea), Sherwood (Tottenham), McManaman (Real Madrid), Sheringham (Man Utd), Phillips (Sunderland), Scholes (Man Utd).

LIVERPOOL BACK ON TRACK



Liverpool's Titi Camara

Liverpool 2 Arsenal 0

If there were any doubts that Gerard Houllier has got his Liverpool revolution on the right road they were dispelled by this breathtaking victory.

Robbie Fowler was the star of the show with a sensational display which will have delighted England boss Kevin Keegan as he plans for the Euro 2000 qualifiers next month.

Fowler, who became a father last Thursday for the first time on the day he was named in the England squad, ended the week by celebrating in style.

He could not have picked a better way to wet the baby's head than with the eighth minute cracker that put Liverpool on the way to their second major scalp in a week.

Last Monday they won at contenders Leeds with Fowler admitting afterwards that his form was way short of his best.

He certainly put that right at Anfield when last season's runners-up arrived complete with their famous veteran back four all on show with Tony Adams, Lee Dixon and Nigel Winterburn in action.

But how those veteran defenders must have wished for a quieter afternoon than they were given by Fowler and Co.

At times they were run ragged as Liverpool with just Fowler up front attacked them from deep at every opportunity.

Not far behind Fowler as the star of the show was Titi Camara,

who tormented Dixon on the flanks to add another brilliant display to his performance at Leeds earlier in the week.

Arsenal started looking calm, cool and composed. But that was only until Liverpool decided to go for the throat. The Merseysiders were given a great boost after eight minutes when Fowler took a square pass from Patrick

Berger some 40 yards out. He moved forward and lashed a stunning drive in off the bar with Alex Manninger floundering.

It was a confidence boost that Liverpool needed. The last time they were on show at Anfield they were an outplayed shambles against Watford. What was needed was a performance of conviction and quality to convince their fans that they were on the right track. And nobody can deny that that was what was served up in the sunshine.

Liverpool just got better and better with Arsenal knocked out of their stride. Their French star Patrick Vieira was hounded at every turn by youngster Steven Gerrard and David Thompson.

By half time Fowler could have had a hat-trick. He had twice jinked into the box on solo runs that ended with despairing Arsenal boots blocking his shot.

Jamie Redknapp also had a clutch of chances and Arsenal in the end were happy to get to the break without conceding any more goals.

A team of Arsenal's quality and character were never going to just lie down after that and their belligerence after the break forced Liverpool into some desperate defending of their own.

But Liverpool on the break were still a potent force and Manninger produced a wonderful diving save to stop a Redknapp free-

kick but could only watch when Fowler, after 63 minutes, cracked another shot against the post.

Arsenal put on Davor Suker after 65 minutes in an clear attempt to wrestle the initiative from Liverpool but they were still unable to create meaningful chances against a defence in which Rigobert Song and Sami Hyypia were outstanding.

Just when it looked like Liverpool's frantic efforts were causing them to tire they grabbed the goal that was to be the killer blow.

Redknapp was tripped on the edge of the box and Berger lashed the 20-yard free-kick that took a deflection and screamed past Manninger's despairing right hand.

In such a pulsating match it was almost forgotten that Michael Owen was sitting patiently on the bench awaiting his first senior for four and a half months. He'll be off to join England next week and is desperately in need of match practice but there was no way that Houllier was going to change the pattern and formation of his team at such a critical stage.

Only with three minutes left did Owen finally get onto the pitch in place of Camara and got a deserved standing ovation from a packed Anfield.

But even then the drama wasn't over. In injury time Song was penalised for a trip of Fredrik Ljungberg in the box and referee Dermot Gallagher awarded a penalty.

But Arsenal's misery was compounded when Westerveld dived to his left to save Suker's spot kick - an unfortunate and unlucky start to his career at Arsenal.

Liverpool: Westerveld, Song, Hyypia, Carragher, Matteo, Thompson (Heggem 70), Gerrard, Redknapp, Berger, Camara (Owen 87), Fowler.
Goals: Fowler 8, Berger 76.
Arsenal: Manninger, Dixon, Winterburn, Keown, Adams, Vieira, Henry, Ljungberg, Overmars (Suker 64), Parriour (Silvinho 75), Bergkamp.

WILSON TO FOLLOW GULLIT?

Southampton 2 Sheffield Wed 0

Hassan Kachloul scored his third goal of the season to earn Southampton all three points and leave hapless Wednesday rooted to the bottom of the table.

A fifth defeat of the season left Danny Wilson's side with just one point from their first six games. And with off-the-field problems apparently building, Benito Carbone's failure to make the Wednesday squad merely sparked rumours about his Hillsborough future.

Goalkeeper Kevin Pressman was first into the action after eight minutes racing from his line to deny Marian Pahars after the Latvian was put through by Claus Lundekvam's long ball.

Wednesday's best chance of the opening period came minutes later when Gilles De Bilde sprinted 40 yards to the edge of the area before unleashing a left-foot drive that Paul Jones did well to turn round the post for a corner.

Wednesday felt they should have had a penalty just before the interval when De Bilde's dangerous swerving run into the area seemed to be halted by a trip from Dean Richards.

Referee Alcock was ideally positioned but after a long hard look waved away the visitors' appeals.

Saints almost took the lead within 90 seconds of the restart, Oakley's cross only being half-cleared by Thome straight to

Hughes six yards out.

But just as the former Chelsea striker was about to shoot Pressman was quickly off his line to smother the effort, receiving the full force of Hughes' lunge for his troubles.

The deadlock was finally broken after 53 minutes as Saints were rewarded for their early pressure with the opening goal.

Soltvedt made a break from midfield before finding Kachloul in space on the edge of the area, the Moroccan firing a first-time right-foot shot past Pressman for his third goal of the season.

Wilson made two substitutions as Wednesday chased the game and the gamble almost worked, Rudi finding space four yards out.

Inexplicably, he chose to square to Cresswell rather than shoot and Cresswell's shot was blocked by Benali, Owls players appealing in vain for a penalty feeling the ball had struck the defender on the arm.

That proved to be their last chance of salvation, Saints wrapping up victory with Oakley's 85th-minute free-kick, leaving Wilson under mounting pressure.

Southampton: Jones, Dodd, Benali, Oakley, Richards, Lundekvam, Ripley, Hughes, Soltvedt, Pahars, Kachloul (Morte 79).
Goals: Kachloul (53) Oakley (84).
Sheffield Wed: Pressman, Atherton, Newsome, Haslam (Sibon 74), Thome, Alexandersson, Cresswell, De Bilde (Donnelly 62), Rudi, Briscoe, Scott.

DON'S DOGGED DEFENCE

Wimbledon 0 Chelsea 1

Chelsea dominated from start to finish at Selhurst Park but breathed a huge sigh of relief when Dan Petrescu's thunderbolt finally punctured the Dons' gritty resistance 12 minutes from time.

Egil Olsen's trench-fighters dug in on the edge of their penalty area at 3pm. They happily surrendered possession and territory, and hurled all manner of body-parts in front of the ball as Chelsea surged forward time after time.

Magnificent defending kept the Blues at bay but Vialli's troops would not be beaten. They remained patient and finally unpicked Wimbledon with a left-wing move and perfect finish from Petrescu.

A collective sigh of relief was heard from half the 22,167 basking in the Selhurst sunshine and all the squandered chances were instantly forgotten.

The goal also broke the hearts of Wimbledon who defended bravely, even if they offered the game little in the way of attacking invention.

The relentless wave of attacks were constant in both halves.

Pedersen, who had been struggling to shrug off a stomach bug all week, made way for left-back Alan Kimble with Thatcher moving into the centre. The Blues, playing in white, swept forward.

Sullivan denied Flo and Poyet planted a free header over. Wise failed to connect cleanly when he looked certain to turn Babayaro's low cross home but his miscued effort allowed Sullivan to scramble across his line to save.

Trond Andersen's goal-line challenge thwarted Flo as the Norwegian tried to force home a ball from Didier Deschamps. And Andy Roberts cleared as Petrescu dithered in front of goal and Cunningham blocked a



Gianfranco Zola

Poyet effort.

Petrescu had stuck the ball in the net twice only to be given offside before blazing his winner past Sullivan with a fierce right-foot drive in the 78th minute.

Wimbledon's chances were few and far between. Walid Badir, who made a lively start on his debut but faded, tested De Goey and Carl Cort fizzed a half-volley a yard wide after good work by Marcus Gayle.

Most of the action was at the other end, however, and Chelsea's late winner was thoroughly deserved.

Wimbledon: Sullivan, Cunningham, Roberts, Thatcher, Cort, Earle (Leaburn 75), Gayle, Pedersen (Kimble 46), Hughes, Badir (Euell 65), Andersen.
Goals: Petrescu 78.

Chelsea: De Goey, Petrescu (Ambrosetti 81), Babayaro, Leboeuf, Desailly, Deschamps (Morris 89), Poyet, Wise, Ferrer, Flo (Sutton 67), Zola.

Tottenham 1 Leeds 2

David O'Leary's perfunctory handshake with George Graham gave away very little, but his emotion-charged victory salute to the Leeds fans said it all.

The Irishman had engineered a second-half comeback by his Leeds side against his former mentor at White Hart Lane and how he was determined to enjoy it to the full.

Graham and his former protegee have not fallen out, you understand, even though they have not actually spoken to each for three months since clashing over Tottenham's signing of Willem Korsten from under the noses of Leeds.

What annoyed O'Leary more than anything else was that Graham did not mention he was signing Korsten, who had been on loan at Elland Road, in several conversations between the two managers.

And even though Graham graciously predicted in his programme that O'Leary would be "one of football's outstanding managers in the coming years", there was no disguising the Leeds boss' delight at the final whistle.

That he had put one over his former boss was by no means the whole reason for his celebrations, though.

For having had a far from perfect start to the season, including defeat by Liverpool last Monday, Leeds responded in battling fashion after going behind to Tim Sherwood's third goal of the campaign eight minutes before the break.

O'Leary could certainly enjoy his fair share of the credit for the second-half

revival, changing

formation at the break and taking off England hopeful Jonathon Woodgate and Michael Bridges to bring on Darren Huckerby and David Hopkin.

Leeds were a different side from then on, with Alan Smith equalising after 52 minutes and then Ian Harte striking a wonderful free-kick to clinch victory with eight minutes left.

But before half-time they had been a shadow of the exciting, attack-minded side which O'Leary has fashioned as Tottenham seized control of central midfield through Sherwood and Steffen Freund.

This allowed David Ginola to exhibit the full range of his talent, roaming at will over the pitch as he opted for selective powers of hearing each time assistant Spurs boss Stewart Houston ordered him back to his left-wing role.

Spurs still needed defender Chris Perry to clear an early header by Danny Mills off the line, while Harry Kewell drove wide, but youngsters Smith and Bridges were largely anonymous up front.

But as Ginola's influence grew, showing some exquisite touches, changes of pace and turns, the home side started to carve out openings and a curling shot from the Frenchman's left boot was saved at the second attempt by Nigel Martyn.

A wonderful flowing move involving Ginola and Sherwood ended with Martyn producing an even better save to keep out a header from Steffen Iversen which was bound for the top corner.

Although the opening goal duly came

it was of a more route-one variety as Freund launched an immense long throw into the penalty area, Leeds allowed the ball to bounce and Iversen sensibly headed it back for Sherwood to half-volley home.

Tottenham were flooding forwards by this stage with Sherwood placing an over-head kick just over the bar, Iversen hitting the side-netting with a volley and a dangerous cross by Ginola flashing across the face of goal.

All Leeds could produce in response was a drive by Kewell just past the post, although Ian Walker had it covered anyway.

O'Leary therefore responded with his double substitution at the break and Leeds were level seven minutes later as Batty probed for an opening around the penalty area before feeding Smith, who turned and shot into the far corner in one swift movement.

Ginola continued to show off his prodigious talents, going round three players before forcing Martyn into a full-length save and producing two dangerous free-kicks, but his team-mates were patently unable to capitalise on his promptings.

And after Bowyer had somehow managed to scoop a shot over the bar from just six yards out following Hopkin's battling run to the byline, Leeds proved to be far less profligate.

Harte lined up a 20-yard free-kick and the ball thundered into the roof of the net after curving around a slight gap left in the Spurs wall.



David Ginola's wizardry not enough for Spurs

There was still time for Smith's dismissal for apparently butting Mauricio Taricco in the groin after earlier being booked for a foul on Stephen Carr.

Leeds had done enough, though, to hang on - even with 10 men - and O'Leary's unrestrained joy at the final whistle was understandable.

Tottenham: Walker, Carr, Perry, Young, Taricco, Leonhardsen, Sherwood, Freund, Ginola, Iversen, Ferdinand(Dominguez 85).
Goals: Sherwood 36.
Leeds: Martyn, Duberry, Radebe, Woodgate(Hopkin 46), Mills(Kelly 65), Batty, Bowyer, Kewell, Harte, Smith, Bridges(Huckerby 46).
Goals: Smith 53, Harte 83.

DUBLIN'S EARLY WINNER



Dion Dublin

Aston Villa 1 Middlesbrough 0

Villa were well worth their fourth win in six matches despite the game never reaching any great heights and they created enough chances to have won it far more comfortably against injury-hit opponents.

But at this stage of the season the name of the game is about putting points on the board and 13 points from six matches is just what was needed by Villa after last season's dramatic slump in the final third.

Villa may be short of being genuine contenders for the Premiership title but they are making a mockery of the odds that made John Gregory second favourite with the bookmakers to be the first manager to be sacked.

The power in the air of Dion Dublin and pace of Julian

Joachim were always a handful for the Middlesbrough defence while wing-back Alan Wright overlapped to good effect.

At the back Ugo Ehiogu was impressive and it was after his enforced substitution through injury after 67 minutes that Villa looked at their most vulnerable.

For Middlesbrough Brian Deane posed the most problems while Paul Ince, overlooked this week by Kevin Keegan, was in typically combative and effective form.

Villa made the perfect start with the only goal and Merson started the move by finding wing-back Wright in space on the left flank.

He had time to deliver an inviting centre towards the near post and Dublin was first to the ball as he sent a powerful header wide of the exposed Mark Schwarzer.

Middlesbrough rode through the early storm and they gradually came more into the game although they were aided by some jittery play by Villa at the back.

Deane should have equalised when he sent his header from an Ince centre straight at David James.

The Villa 'keeper allowed the ball to wriggle from his grasp and then needed treatment as Hamilton Ricard tried to convert the rebound.

Ince was involved in the thick of the action, deflecting a

shot from Dublin for a corner and then seeing a high centre at the other end of the pitch cause problems for James.

He failed to collect and was grateful to Colin Calderwood for blocking the eventual goal-bound effort from Ince.

Villa totally dominated the opening phase of the second period and they created enough chances to have killed off the game.

Schwarzer turned a curling effort around the post from Joachim who then toe-poked an effort inches wide after he had anticipated a left-wing centre from Hendrie.

Ince then produced a great tackle to halt Hendrie while Gary Pallister deflected a shot over the bar from Joachim as Villa continued to turn the screw.

After Ehiogu's departure Villa became jittery and James was forced to tip over a 20-yard effort from Deane - but Villa survived.

Aston Villa: James, Wright, Southgate, Ehiogu(Boateng 67), Taylor, Dublin, Merson, Joachim(Vassell 78), Hendrie, Delaney, Calderwood.
Goals: Dublin 5.
Middlesbrough: Schwarzer, Vickers, Pallister, Mustoe, Ince, Deane, Stamp, Townsend(Summerbell 76), Ricard(Campbell 70), Stockdale, Gavin.

SMITH CELEBRATES

Derby 1 Everton 0

Esteban Fuertes scored on his home debut to give Derby boss Jim Smith a victory against 10-man Everton almost 30 years to the day since he started in management.

Fuertes headed home 90 seconds into the second half, rising unchallenged six yards out to beat exposed goalkeeper Paul Gerrard after getting on the end of Francesco Baiano's cross.

That was enough to see off Everton, who had to play out the final 65 minutes of the match a man down following the dismissal of Richard Dunne.

The Rams' 26-year-old Argentinian striker - currently with Colon De Santa Fe - has still not signed for Derby, who have until September 19 to end the complicated £2.3million transfer saga that has so far gone on for five weeks.

He is still well short of match fitness - he lasted 65 minutes on his debut against Sheffield Wednesday in midweek and was substituted 19 minutes from time in this match - but he could be the forward Derby have craved.

The game was a physical encounter with Derby playing their best football.

Inside two minutes Fuertes was denied by Gerrard and from the rebound Rory Delap's header was cleared off the line by

Richard Gough.

Spencer Prior also headed over but the game then went downhill fast, with D'Urso taking centre stage.

As well as Dunne's two bookings the yellow card was shown to Johnson, Nick Barmby, Fuertes and Gerrard - the latter, comically, for time-wasting - in the first half.

But once faced with 10 men Derby seemed to lack ideas and their only other chance before the interval saw Schnoor fire wastefully over following good work by Fuertes.

However, Baiano came on at half-time and he immediately made an impact, setting up the goal that broke Everton's resistance.

That should have opened the floodgates but still Derby struggled to fully capitalise with Gerrard rarely troubled.

Don Hutchison went close with a dipping 25-yard volley in the closing stages as Everton looked for an unlikely equaliser but the Rams hung on for their second win in four days.

Derby: Hought, Prior, Carbonari, Laursen, Borbokis, Johnson (Ernio 46), Bohinen(Baiano 46), Powell, Schnoor, Delap, Fuertes (Sturridge 71).
Goals: Fuertes 71.
Everton: Gerrard, Weir, Gough, Dunne, Unsworth, Hutchison, Collins, Barmby(Gemmill 66), Pembroke, Campbell, Jeffers(Cadamarten 66).

GULLIT - FIRST CASUALTY



Gullit ... end of short reign

Ruud Gullit quit as Newcastle manager last Saturday morning - exactly a year after taking charge at St James' Park.

The 36-year-old Dutchman admitted he was taking full responsibility for poor results but also blamed media intrusion into his private life for his decision to step down.

Gullit's number two Steve Clarke has been appointed caretaker manager and he begun his period in charge with a visit to Manchester United on Monday (as Inside Soccer went to press).

Speaking at a news conference at the ground, Gullit said: "I know there are still a lot of people who want me to stay and there are a lot of people who want me to go but I think that the moment has come to resign.

"When all the players will be fit I still think that this team is capable of doing very good things, therefore I wish Newcastle United a very prosperous future with more luck than

all the previous managers have had.

"The main reason why I came to England four years ago was that I wanted to have my own private life back. The years at Chelsea I enjoyed very much because I really have the feeling that I could be myself again."

Gullit added: "The moment I came to Newcastle the journalists asked me if I understood how big the job was and I thought I knew, now I know what they really meant by that. In this last year my private life has been invaded in a bad way.

"I am used to being judged on what I do as a professional footballer or football coach, but my private life has been on the streets too much."

Newcastle are currently one place off the bottom with just one point from their first five matches.

Indeed, they have not won a single game since April, a run

of 12 matches, and despite the investment of around £16million during the summer, things have gone from bad to worse.

However, it was the home defeat by arch-rivals Sunderland on Wednesday night, in which striker Alan Shearer was ordered to sit on the bench, which seems to have been the final straw.

Gullit's battle of wills with the Magpies and England skipper has festered for weeks, but it reached crisis point in midweek when, after dropping the striker from the starting line-up, he initially snubbed him once again as he made his substitutions and then tried to blame him for the defeat.

Gullit arrived at St James' Park exactly a year ago after Kenny Dalglish's split with the club left a yawning vacancy on Tyneside.

It needed a big name and it was widely thought that the

Newcastle board had pulled off something of a coup in securing the services of the former Chelsea boss.

His personal charisma and his commitment to open, attacking play went down well with the black and white faithful, but as the "sexy football" failed to arrive, the charm started to disappear.

Gullit was sacked as Chelsea manager last year and after seven months out of the game he returned as Newcastle boss following the departure of Kenny Dalglish.

But despite spending more than £32million, he was unable to bring success on the pitch.

His public fall-out with Shearer helped seal his fate and now the search will be on for the latest candidate to take on the thankless task of resurrecting Newcastle's fortunes.

FIRST DIVISION BECKONS

Bradford City 0 West Ham 3

Paolo Di Canio returned to Yorkshire in ebullient mood to send West Ham cruising to their third successive victory at Bradford.

The former Sheffield Wednesday striker was at his inspirational and inventive best to guide the Hammers to a comfortable 3-0 win.

The Italian opened the scoring in the 34th minute and then turned provider for Trevor Sinclair (45) and Paulo Wanchope (49).

But Di Canio also revealed that his dark side has not totally disappeared when he received a second half caution for diving into a tackle with Gunnar Halle.

But while Di Canio was devastating, Bradford's confidence had been destroyed.

Even the return of experienced Stuart McCall and the second half presence of last year's highly productive strike force of Lee Mills and Robbie Blake was not enough to gain an advantage over a Hammers' side buoyed after the midweek InterToto Cup win in France.

Bradford have now lost three consecutive Premiership matches without scoring - a statistic which infuriates manager Paul Jewell.

West Ham had looked uncomfortable in the opening period of the game with Rio Ferdinand almost guilty of handing Bradford an early lead. But he recovered from his error to deny Halle.

And Dean Windass and Saunders both had chances to open the Bantams account in

the sixth minute.

But, after their initial insecurity, West Ham began to find their feet.

And the quality of Di Canio and Frank Lampard began to shine through as they bossed the midfield.

Sinclair almost opened the scoring in the 20th minute but Wayne Jacobs stepped in with a timely challenge to deny the former Queens Park Ranger.

The Hammers were now flying on automatic pilot and Lampard tried his luck from 20 yards but was denied by a terrific block from John Dreyer.

Bradford made the occasional first half foray upfield but the class of recalled England international Stuart Pierce and Ferdinand was too big a mountain to climb.

And inevitably Bradford succumbed to the Hammers pressure 11 minutes before the break.

Lampard played the ball into Costa Rican striker Wanchope. The ex-Derby forward chested the ball down into the path of Di Canio who had the simple task of driving past Gary Walsh.

The UEFA Cup-bound Hammers then took further control in the final minute of the half as Di Canio turned provider for Sinclair.

The Italian fed the ball to the right of the area and Sinclair raced in to rifle home West Ham's second into the roof of Walsh's net.

It took just four second-half minutes for West Ham to secure the three points with Di Canio again at the heart of play.

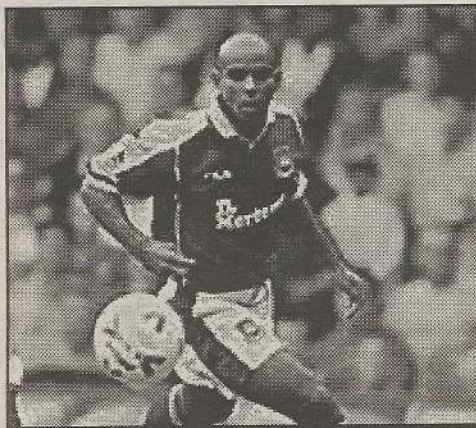
The controversial striker played a great one-two with Wanchope and the Costa Rican powered past Dreyer to smash the ball home.

Mills almost gave Bradford fans something to cheer with 14 minutes left but his looping header hit the crossbar and bounced away to safety.

However, West Ham continued in cruise control to earn their first win at Bradford for 63 years.

Bradford: Walsh, McCall, Wetherill, Whalley, Beagrie, O'Brien (Mills 46), Windass (Redfern 64), Halle, Dreyer, Jacobs, Saunders (Blake 53).

West Ham: Hislop, Pearce, Potts, Keller, Sinclair, Di Canio, Lomas, Wanchope, Ferdinand (Carrick 79), Moncur, Lampard.
Goals: Di Canio 34, Sinclair 44, Wanchope 49.



Trevor Sinclair ... scorer of second goal

COVENTRY STEAL A POINT

Sunderland 1 Coventry 1

Robbie Keane had given the Sky Blues a 33rd-minute lead with his third goal since signing on at Highfield Road and fifth of the campaign, including two for Wolves.

Coventry looked set to hang on for the victory before Kevin Phillips' spectacular intervention levelled matters, though Keane then volleyed over two minutes into stoppage time when he had the chance to grab a winner.

Phillips joined Dwight Yorke at the top of the Premiership goalscoring chart as Sunderland found not all Premiership clubs are as easy to beat as Newcastle.

Peter Reid's side, fresh from Wednesday's 2-1 win at St James' Park, were brought down to earth with a bump by Coventry at the Stadium of Light today.

And it took Phillips' fifth goal of the season 17 minutes from time to salvage a point for Sunderland.

The striker, in the England squad for the Euro 2000 qualifiers with Luxembourg and Poland, looked offside as Paul Butler prodded the ball forward.

But Phillips was not waiting for an assistant referee's flag as he acrobatically volleyed a shot between Magnus Hedman's legs from nine yards.

Until then, it had seemed all Sunderland's domination in the second half would go unrewarded and Coventry - who had Youssef Chippo sent off by referee Steve Lodge four minutes from time for two bookable offences - would be picking up all three points.

But while Phillips was again hailed a hero by the Wearsiders, he will have to share the limelight with Keane, who notched his third goal for the Sky Blues.

The 19-year-old was branded as

being overpriced by Manchester United manager Sir Alex Ferguson, who said he would pay £500,000 for him and put him in the reserves when he was still with Wolves.

Coventry scored the goal when Alex Rae, robbed Stefan Schwarz and threaded a pass in behind the Sunderland defence for Keane to run on to.

As Butler fell over, the Republic of Ireland international beat Thomas Sorensen to the ball and rounded the keeper.

The angle was very tight but Keane was able to fire his shot just inside the near post as defenders chased back towards their own line in vain.

Keane tried an audacious first-time volley but Sorensen had raced back to his goal and gathered the shot.

That was as good as it got for Coventry, who had just about deserved their half-time advantage after slightly getting the better of their hosts.

But after the interval they had to defend deep to preserve their lead as Sunderland pushed for an equaliser that looked at one stage like it might not come.

Steve Bould went close with two headers, while Niall Quinn could not quite get on the end of Schwarz's cross and Chippo blocked Gavin McCann's drive.

But Phillips, who had gone close with a 25-yard drive just before half-time, then popped up to equalise and ensure the spoils were shared.

Sunderland: Sorensen, Makin, Gray, Butler, Bould, Summerbee, Rae, Schwarz, McCann (Oster 72), Quinn, Phillips.

Goals: Phillips 73.

Coventry: Hedman, Edworthy, Breen, Froggatt, Shaw, Williams, Chippo, McAllister, Hadji (Telfer 76), Aloisi (McSheffrey 83), Keane.

Goals: Keane 33.

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Scottish Premier League

CELTIC SWAGGER BACK IN GROOVE

Celtic 4 Hearts 0

The swagger returned to John Barnes' Celtic as Hearts found themselves badly outclassed by Old Firm opposition for the second time this season at Parkhead.

After two disappointing performances on Tayside against the Dundee clubs, the Celtic mood seemed flat ahead of the game but to the relief of a near 60,000 crowd they turned on the style today.

Mark Viduka and Henrik Larsson scored a goal apiece in the opening half, each setting up the other, to ease any Celtic tension and set the scene for an Eyal Berkovic takeover.

The Israeli midfielder struck twice in three second-half minutes to leave Hearts on the wrong end of the same 4-0 scoreline they suffered against Rangers at Tynecastle earlier this term.

Celtic enjoyed a succession of corner early on as every time the ball was cleared by Hearts it came straight back to them and the goal, when it came, had a sense of inevitability.

Larsson turned youngster Grant Murray expertly and measured a precise cross for Viduka to power a header into the top right-hand corner of the net from close range.

In the 26th minute Gary McSwegan, introduced into the Scotland squad this week, seized possession and delicately chipped Jonathan Gould only to see his effort bounce wide.

Encouraged Hearts pressed forward again and Colin Cameron's pass set up McSwegan for another shooting chance only for the striker to drag his strike across the face of goal.

It proved costly as after 37 minutes Celtic were two ahead, Viduka returning the favour by outsmarting Gary Naysmith and playing in Larsson to roll the ball under Rousset.

Celtic might easily have gone three ahead before the break, twice Moravcik header found Stubbs, the first saved by Rousset the second blocked by Jackson on the line.

Celtic claimed their former player used a hand to make the clearance but nothing was awarded, while moments later there was no reward for a Berkovic run as he shot over the bar.

Hearts manager Jim Jefferies made a double change at the break removing both Gary Locke and Grant

Murray who had struggled with man-to-man marking roles to bring on Adam and Jose Quitongo.

It made little immediate difference as straight from the restart a Viduka cross picked out Burley but the former Chelsea midfielder was leaning backwards and his header drifted wide.

A Steven Pressley error set up Larsson for a run at goal, but while his pace took him clear he was stopped in his tracks by the bravery of Rousset who saved well.

Celtic moved three ahead after 70 minutes when Mahe's persistence on the left earned him the opportunity to cross low for an unmarked Berkovic to slide in.

A mere two minutes later the Scottish record signing made it 4-0 with a rare header after Viduka's cross took a slight deflection and fell kindly for Berkovic in front of goal.

Celtic: Gould, Mahe, McNamara, Stubbs, Larsson, Burley, Berkovic (Petra 74), Tebily, Moravcik (Blinker 79), Mjallby, Viduka (Burchill 74).
Goals: Viduka 17, Larsson 36, Berkovic 70, 72.
Hearts: Rousset, Pressley, Naysmith, Locke (Quitongo 45), Ritchie, McSwegan, Cameron, Jackson, Murray (Adam 45), Flogel (Fulton 87), Severin.

RANGERS JUGGERNAUT ROLLS ON

Hibernian 0 Rangers 1

Ibrox manager Dick Advocaat's art of making the right decisions was again illustrated at Hibernian as Rangers substitute Jonatan Johansson's goal sealed victory.

The Finn's composed 69th minute strike settled a frenetic contest at Easter Road as Hibernian made Rangers work hard for their fifth straight league win of the campaign.

The freshness of Johansson, on at half-time for a below-par Andrei Kanchelskis, proved the difference for the visitors whose maximum points start to the season survived a genuine test.

Hibernian boss Alex McLeish was absent after having his appendix removed - so his deputy Andy Watson took charge - but will be cheered at how close his team came to preserving their unbeaten record.

Kanchelskis' skill created a Rangers' opening, the Russian winger defeating two men before feeding Michael Mols, whose cross was touched away from Neil McCann by Michael Renwick.

Tony Vidmar then looked to continue his recent run of goals by cutting inside with pace, before unleashing a snap-shot that



Rangers' Barry Ferguson

was well held by home keeper Ollie Gottskalksson.

Mols had made a quiet start but after 23 minutes created time and space for himself on the edge of the area before sending an ambitious effort over the bar from distance.

But it was Hibernian who should have taken the lead in the closing minute of the first-half after being awarded a free-kick on the edge of the area when Craig Moore fouled Lehmann.

Sauzee's strike was superbly saved by Charbonnier, but the French keeper could not hold it and defender Shaun Dennis should have converted the rebound, but blazed the ball over an empty net.

After 69 minutes the breakthrough went to Rangers as substitute Jorg Albertz, on for Vidmar, played in Johansson to beat the offside flag and slot low past Gottskalksson.

Every free-kick on the edge of the area posed a Hibs threat because of Sauzee, but the French midfielder was again denied by his compatriot Charbonnier on 82 minutes as Rangers held out.

Hibernian: Gottskalksson, Renwick, Hughes, Dennis, Collins (Henry 71), Brebner, Sauzee, Latapy, McGinlay, Hartley (Miller 86), Lehmann (Paatelainen 46).
Rangers: Charbonnier, Adamczuk, Moore, Amoroso, Vidmar (Albertz 63), Kanchelskis, (Johansson 46), Ferguson, Reyna, Van Bronckhorst, Mols, McCann (Hendry 84).
Goals: Johansson 69.

DUNDEE EASY WINNERS OVER MOTHERWELL

Motherwell 0 Dundee 2

Dundee snapped up two opportunist chances to snatch the goals that gave them a deserved win over a disappointing Motherwell side.

Eddie Annand punished defenders Steve Craigen and Derek Adams for their mix-up in trying to clear a Jim Grady cross by pouncing on loose ball to fire Dundee ahead in the 16th minute.

Then, seven minutes from time, a splendid pass from Gavin Rae was clipped back from the bye-line by Shaun McSkimming for Willie Falconer to head home at the far post.

Motherwell's disappointing performance in the first half was made worse by two bookings minutes before the interval - John Spencer for tripping Boyack and Doesburg for impeding Grady.

John Spencer, who had a quiet after-

noon, forced a superb save from Douglas in the 80th minute with a header from a Doesburg cross.

Motherwell brought on Pat Nevin and Finnish International Simo Valakari on at the re-start and this prompted a brief flurry of pressure from the home side.

But they failed to sustain that spell and Dundee regained the upper hand.

The Dens men held out to win comfortably although picking up three second half bookings as yellow cards were handed out to McSkimming, Falconer and Rae.

Motherwell: Goram, Doesburg, Craigen, Teale, McGowan (Valakari 46), McMillan, Adams (Nevin 46), Brannan, Spence, McCulloch, Goodman (Halliday 80).
Dundee: Douglas, Miller, Smith, Tweed, Maddison, Rae, Boyack, McSkimming, Grady (Van Eljs 73), Falconer, Annand (Yates 87).
Goal: Annand 16, Falconer 83.

ABERDEEN'S WORST EVER START

Aberdeen 0 St Johnstone 3

Aberdeen's worst-ever start to a season in the club's history continued following a 3-0 reversal at the hands of visitors St Johnstone.

On 26 minutes the visitors took the lead. Nick Dasovic squared the ball to Kevin Thomas, who expertly sidestepped a challenge from Solberg before having plenty of time to steady himself and slot the ball low into the net from the edge of the box.

As the match headed towards half-time the pace slowed right down with neither side giving the 9,600 crowd anything to cheer about.

After the break, the Dons went in desperate search of the equaliser with Darren Mackie forcing Main to stretch in order to make another fine stop.

With Aberdeen's confidence still growing, Mackie did well to turn in the box before curling an angled shot past

the post. Defender Gary Smith became the next Don to have a go with his header from Jamie McAllister's corner going over the bar.

On 68 minutes however, the Saints increased their lead. Preece first of all brilliantly touched away Garry Bolland's free-kick before turning from saint to sinner when he failed to get to the resulting corner, allowing Jim Weir to head into the empty net at the back post.

St Jln the 75th minute Dasovic was again the provider, sending Nathan Lowndes racing into the box, and though his shot was poor, Preece could not collect cleanly.

Aberdeen: Preece, Smith (Perry 59), Anderson, Solberg, Dow, Gillies (Winters 53), Buchan (Bernard 64), Mayer, McAllister, Mackie, Jess.
St Johnstone: Main, McQuillan, Dasovic (Lauchlan 81), Weir, Simao (Lowndes 70), O'Neil, Kane, Bolland, Griffin, Dods, Thomas (Grant 75).
Goals: Thomas 26, Weir 68, Lowndes 75.

DUNDEE'S BOGEY TEAM

Dundee United 0 Kilmarnock 0

Kilmarnock are fast becoming Dundee United's bogey team as they stretched to six the number of games in which United have failed to score against the Ayrshire men.

United set up many early chances but Portuguese striker Joaquim Ferraz will rue the chances he missed and will have to curb the enthusiasm which saw him caught offside too often.

Right from the start United showed they meant business and in the eighth minute Billy Dodds latched on to a rare mistake by MacPherson but just as the striker was on the point of shooting the defender got in a great tackle to cover his blushes.

Two minutes after the break ex-Arsenal and Sheffield Wednesday defender Siggie Jonsson joined them in the book for a clumsy challenge on Paul Wright, who almost got revenge when he took advantage of a slip by Jonsson but sent his 20-yarder past the post. United got on top again and Ferraz sent

two headers over the bar.

Kilmarnock came close on the hour mark when Durrant's corner was half cleared to Ally Mitchell and his 25-yard volley was blocked by Jonsson.

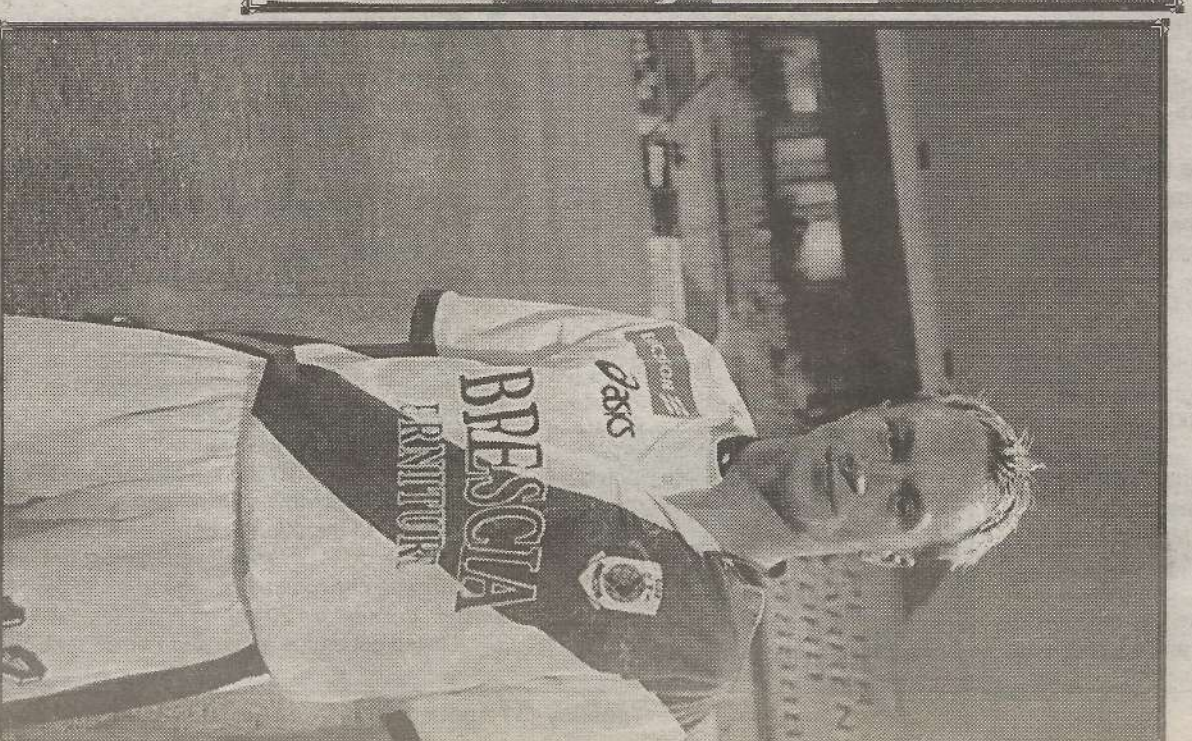
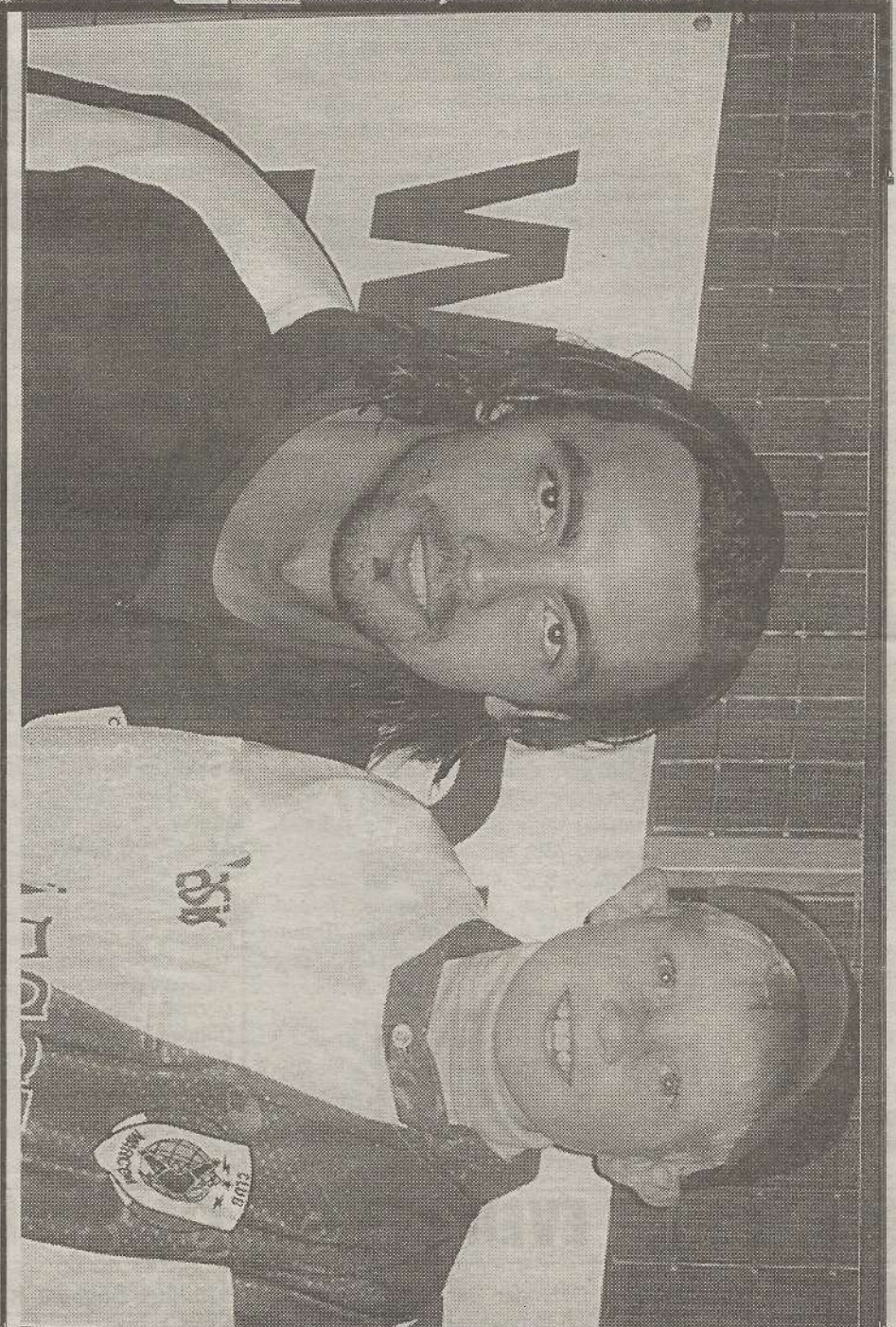
Paterson was again the provider when his splendid through ball allowed Ferraz to close in on goal but this time it was Frederic Dindeleux who got in the saving tackle.

In the 68th minute Mitchell blasted a 25-yarder which was punched away by Combe and United went straight down the park where Dodds hit the outside of the post.

With 10 minutes remaining another inch-perfect Paterson corner allowed Bernard Pascual to get in a header only to see MacPherson clear off the line again.

Dundee Utd: Combe, De Vos, Jonsson, Partridge, Skoldmark (Pascual 78), Hannah, Easton, Telesnikov, Paterson, Ferraz (Thompson 78), Dodds.
Kilmarnock: Meldrum, Lauchlan, Dindeleux, Baker, MacPherson, Bagan (Reilly 88), Durrant, Mitchell, Holt, Wright (McCoist 77), Jeffrey.

NEXT WEEK: THE NEW MARGONI



PICTURED ABOVE IS VIADO ZORIC
AND FAN, BRAD
MALONEY AND THE ON TRIAL
STRIKER HARRY KARL (RIGHT)

MAJOR MARKETING PLANS IN PLACE